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Public
REPORTS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

TO THE CONVENTION

OF THE

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS,

WHICH ASSEMBLED AT AUSTIN, THE 28TH JANUARY, 1861, AND
RE-ASSEMBLED ON THE 2D DAY OF MARCH, 1861:

CONTAINING THE

MISSIONS TO SAN ANTONIO, TO THE RIO GRANDE,
AND TO THE N. W. FRONTIER.

GEN'L ROGER'S MISSION TO LOUISIANA,
TO PROCURE ARMS

AND THE

CONFERENCE OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE WITH THE
LATE GOV. HOUSTON,

WITH

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

AUSTIN:

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1861.

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Report }
No. 1. }

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

ON

PUBLIC SAFETY.

COMMITTEE ROOM, }
March 6th, 1861. }

TO THE HON. O. M. ROBERTS,

President of the Convention:

The committee on the Public Safety, beg leave to submit through you, to the Convention of the People, the following report in detail of the numerous and important matters which were confided to them, both during the sitting of the Convention and during the recess from the adjournment on the 5th day of February and the re-assembling of the same on the 2nd day of March.

After the passage of the Ordinance of Secession by the Convention, the committee believing that it would be of the highest importance to secure to the State of Texas the property belonging to the United States, then within the State; that the public safety demanded that Texas should have control of the arms and munitions of war within her limits, it was too manifest for the committee to hesitate as to their duties on this subject. The policy of coercion, it was believed, would be adopted by the incoming administration of the late United States government, and with about 2,800 United States regular troops stationed at different points in the State, all of whom were well supplied with arms and ammunition, the committee believed their presence under the command and control of U. S. officers, was dangerous to the welfare and safety of the State, especially if they remained here without change, until secession of the State of Texas became a finality.

It was also believed by the committee, that although many of the army officers in command in the 8th military district of the State of Texas, would never consent to use the military

forces under their command against the people of Texas, yet the committee did not know and could not, how soon the friends of the South might be superceded and our enemies placed in their stead. In view of these facts, and the fact that Texas was justly entitled to her share of the public property, and in view of the fact that Texas was without arms for her defense, the committee under the authority of an Ordinance of the Convention, passed the 2nd Feb., 1861, proceeded to set on foot a plan for obtaining possession of the United States property and for the removal of the United States troops from Texas.

The following is a copy of said Ordinance :

RESOLUTION of the Convention conferring authority on the committee of Public Safety.

Resolved by the people of the State of Texas, by delegates in Convention Assembled, That should the standing committee of Public Safety deem it essential to the public safety to appoint commissioners, officers or persons, in reference to taking possession of any of the Federal property within the limits of this State, they shall have power to appoint such, and assign them their duties and give them the instructions under which they shall act ; but this power shall only extend to such cases in which the committee may deem prompt action and secrecy absolutely necessary.

That a copy of this resolution, signed by the President of this Convention, and the appointments and instructions signed by the Hon. John C. Robertsson, chairman of said committee, shall be full authority to the person or persons acting under the same, and a full justification for all acts done in pursuance thereof.

Adopted 2nd February, A. D., 1861.

Preparatory for the appointment of officers and commissioners under said Ordinance, and to insure secrecy as against the enemies of the country, the following proceedings were had by the committee.

On the 3rd of February, 1861, it was moved and adopted by the committee, that all officers appointed by this committee should be elected by ballot, and the Commissioners above named, were so elected.

MONDAY, 4th February, 1861.

The following oath was proposed and adopted by the committee, to be administered to each of the committee and all officers and agents employed by it :

“I solemnly swear that I will keep secret all the councils of this committee and all their proceedings; that I will also keep secret all the orders, resolutions and instructions from them that may be committed to me; that I will not divulge them or any of them to any person whatever, unless I am authorized to do so by the said committee.

I further swear that I will true allegiance bear to the State of Texas, and faithfully execute the orders and instructions committed to me by the Convention so far as in me lies, so help me God.”

The Convention in view of the fact, that the business before the committee could not be done during the sitting of the Convention, passed the following Ordinance, requiring them to continue in session during the recess of the Convention :

RESOLUTION giving power to the Committee to sit during recess, &c.

Resolved, That the standing committee on Public Safety shall continue in session during the recess of this Convention; that they hold their meetings at such times and places as in their judgment the public interest requires; that said committee may grant leave of absence to its members, provided such leave of absence shall not reduce the number left, to a less number than nine.

2. *Resolved*, That said committee shall keep a full and accurate journal of their acts in a well bound book, and report the same to the Convention on the re-assembling thereof on the 2nd day of March next.

Adopted, February 4th, 1861.

On the third day of February 1861, the committee having been informed that Gen. Twiggs, who was then in command of the 8th military district in Texas, with Head Quarters at San Antonio, was a Southern man by birth, and friendly to the cause of the South, and would in all probability surrender up to the Convention all the Federal property under his control on demand made, passed the following resolution, with the hope that civil Commissioners might accomplish the purpose of the committee without the display of an armed force :

February 3rd, 1861.

On the same day the following resolution was presented and adopted :

Resolved, That Sam A. Maverick, Thomas J. Devine, Philip N. Lockett and James H. Rogers be appointed Commis-

sioners to confer with Gen. D. E. Twiggs with regard to the public arms, munitions of war &c., under his control and belonging to the government of the U. S. with power to demand and remove the same in the name of the State of Texas, and that said Commissioners be clothed with full power to carry into effect the powers herein delegated and retain possession of such arms, munitions, stores &c., subject to the order of the Convention of the people of the State of Texas, and report their acts and doings in the premises to the committee on Public Safety.

Pursuant to this resolution, the following commission was issued to T. J. Devine, Sam A. Maverick, I. N. Luckett and Jas. H. Rogers, clothing them with authority as therein set forth, and with the authenticated copies of the Ordinance of the Convention raising the committee on Public Safety, and clothing them with powers to appoint Commissioners &c., and their authority to exhibit to Gen. Twiggs :

STATE OF TEXAS, }
County of Travis. }

By virtue of the authority vested in the committee on Public Safety, as appears in the foregoing resolution adopted by the Convention of the people of Texas, assembled in the city of Austin on the 28th day of January, 1861.

You ; T. J. Devine, Samuel A. Maverick, P. N. Luckett and James H. Rogers, are hereby appointed commissioners to visit Maj. Gen. Twiggs, commanding the 8th military division stationed at San Antonio, and confer with him in the name and by the authority of the people of Texas in Convention assembled, to demand and receive and receipt for all military, medical, commissary and ordnance stores under his control within the limits of the State of Texas, exercising all due discretion for the securing and safe keeping of the same. To be held by you without diminution or injury, subject to the order of the committee of Public Safety, and in obedience to the provisions of such rules or ordinances as the Convention may prescribe.

Given under my hand, and by order of the
committee of Public Safety, at the city of
Austin, February 5th, 1861.

[Signed.]

J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety.

[Attest,]

THOMAS. J. LUBBOCK, }
J. A. GREEN. }

But lest Gen. David E. Twiggs should decline to surrender the government property to the Commissioners and delay might prove fatal to the enterprize, the committee thought it prudent to elect Col. Ben. McCulloch to the military rank of Colonel of cavalry, and commission him accordingly ; which they did. The following is a copy of his commission :

AUSTIN, Texas, February 3rd, 1861.

The committee do hereby appoint you, Ben. McCulloch, military officer, and order you to hold yourself in readiness to raise men and munitions of war, whenever called on by the Commissioners to San Antonio, and to be governed as directed by the secret instructions, given said Commissioners concerning said command, and you will station yourself at the residence of Henry McCulloch and await the communications of said Commissioners or the committee on Public Safety.

[Signed,]

J. C. ROBERTSON.

Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety.

The Civil Commissioners to San Antonio, T. J. Devine, and others were also furnished with secret instructions to be followed by them should Gen. David E. Twiggs refuse to turn over to them the government property. The following is a copy of said secret instructions.

COMMITTEE ROOM, }
Austin, Feb. 6th, 1861. }

The committee met at 9 o'clock A. M. Roll called—quorum present.

The following instructions were presented to the committee and adopted :

To Messrs. Sam. A. Maverick, Thomas J. Devine, Phillip N. Luckett and James H. Rogers.

Gentlemen—The resolution of the Committee of Public Safety by which you were appointed gives the outline of your authority and duty. You are sensible that the trust reposed is of the highest responsibility and involves the most delicate and important duties. In the discharge of that trust you will be governed by the following instructions :

I. You will repair immediately to San Antonio, the headquarters of Gen. Twiggs, in command of this Department. You

will ascertain from him his sentiments in regard to the existing state of affairs, and the position he intends to occupy in reference to the withdrawal of Texas from the Federal Union. If he informs you that he intends to remain in the service of the Federal Government and execute its orders against Texas, no further friendly conference with him will be desirable, and you will be governed in your conduct as hereinafter instructed; but if on the other hand he should express a determination not to remain in the service of the Federal Government after the 4th of March next, then

II. You will learn from him the terms and conditions upon which he will render up to the people of Texas the arms and public property under his control in Texas, or if he should suggest to you a plan for the peaceable accomplishment of that object you are directed to adopt and observe such suggestions, if deemed by you practicable and act in accordance with it. If, however, he should decline suggesting any plan of action you will then

III. Demand of him in the name and by the authority of the sovereign people of the State of Texas, a surrender of all the arms of every description including quarter master, commissaries, ordnance and medical stores and military store of every description and money and every thing else under his control, belonging to the Federal Government.

IV. Should a display of force become necessary in order to make the demand you will direct Col. Ben. McCulloch to call out and take the command of such force of the volunteer and minute men of the State as will be necessary for that purpose, and then repeat the demand, and then if the demand should be complied with you will take charge of every thing turned over to you, taking a complete inventory and executing all necessary receipts. You will do everything in your power to avoid any collision with the federal troops, and to effect the peaceable accomplishment of your mission, and for this purpose he shall obey your instructions.

V. If Gen. Twiggs should indicate a desire not to turn over to you such military stores, arms and other public property until after the 2nd day of March next, but a readiness to do so then, you will then enter into an arrangement to the effect that every thing under his command shall remain in "*Statu Quo*" until that period—that no movement, change of position or concentration of the troops under his command will be allowed, that none of the arms, ordnances commissary or military stores or other property shall be removed or disposed of. If he refuses to make such arrangements you will see that no such movement, change,

concentration or removal shall take place, and you are authorized to use every means to prevent the same.

VI. If after conferring with Gen. Twiggs, you should be of opinion that military force is necessary, you will immediately proceed to assemble the same and communicate by express to this committee. Should the property be turned over to you, you will employ all the necessary clerks and other persons to take charge of the same. You will also raise a military force of volunteers or minute men to guard the same safely while it shall be controlled by you.

You are instructed to take the most special care that nothing shall be wasted or destroyed, but that every thing be faithfully guarded, and held for the use of the State and to be accounted for.

Whatever military force that shall be raised must be kept in strict subordination and no violation of person or property of any person, must under any circumstances be allowed.

If after your arrival at San Antonio circumstances shall occur which are not covered by the foregoing instructions, you will immediately report to the committee for further orders unless they be so urgent as not to admit of delay, in which event you must use your discretion, but immediately report your course of action.

You will take all pains to ascertain the tone and temper of the officers and men of the federal army, and may give them the assurance of the influence of Texas in securing to them the same or higher grades in the service of the Southern Confederacy as those now held by them, if they are inclined to accept the same.

Take every pains to conciliate them and attach them in sentiment to the cause of Texas and the South.

You will avoid every appearance of making a proposal to Gen. Twiggs or any officer under his command, which will wound a soldiers pride and honor. They should, however, be reminded that they have been stationed in Texas for the protection and not the subjugation of her people, and that patriotism is incompatible with warring against the liberties of their fellow citizens.

You are specially charged that in the performance of the service assigned you, that you will do nothing that will conflict with the powers herein conferred. You will from time to time make full and complete reports to this Committee.

[Signed.]

J. C. ROBERTSON,
Chairman of Committee Public Safety.

Vested with the authority contained in the commission and

secret instructions—three of the commissioners to-wit : T. J. Devine, Sam Maverick and P. N. Lockett, on the 6th day of February set out for San Antonio. On the 8th day of February said commissioners forwarded by express to the committee the following communication :

SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 8th, 1861.

J. C. ROBERTSON, ESQ.,

Chairman Committee of Public Safety:

The undersigned in accordance with their instructions, called on Gen. D. E. Twiggs, and by his request met him at 2 o'clock this afternoon and in presence of Major Nichols, we stated our mission and presented our credentials (which Gen. Twiggs did not ark or evince the slightest desire to have read to him, or even to look at,) and carried out our interview in accordance with the letter and spirit of our instructions as nearly as practicable.

Gen. Twiggs expressed himself strongly in favor of Southern Rights, and caused copies of his letters to the War Department to be read to the committee, in which he asserts that he will not be instrumental in bringing on civil war, and a great deal more in that line which may mean something or nothing, according to circumstance, and he very significantly asserted that we had not seceded

He expressed a willingness to keep everything under his control as it now is, until the second of March next, and would give us information if he should be superceded, and in the event of the State being in favor of secession would, on demand made by the Convention deliver all up, but expressed a fixed determination to march the troops under his command out with all their arms, transportation facilities, and extra clothing to be delivered to them, &c.,

The undersigned, after considerable conversation on the subject of their mission retired for consultation, and being desirous of avoiding if possible the necessity for collecting a force around the city, for the purpose of compelling a delivery. Mr. Maverick was deputed to obtain from the General a statement in writing of what he was willing to do, in the hope that it would under our instructions be admissible, he refused to make any statement or give any pledge in writing.

Upon ascertaining this fact we determined to send an express without delay to Col Ben. McCulloch to bring as large a force as he may deem necessary, and as soon as possible to San Antonio.

The substance of Gen. Twiggs's conversation or verbal offer was this, "that he will hold things as they are, and will if in *command* on the 2nd of March next, deliver to the commissioners all

the public property that is not desirable or convenient for him to carry away on or after that time."

He professed great admiration for the manhood, soldiership and patriotism of Gen. Scott, and is evidently inclined to imitate him in the present crisis in many respects.

He is no doubt a good Southern man, as far as hatred to Black Republicanism can make a man such; there is however a higher element than hatred. We do not know to what extent that sentiment prevails with Gen. Twiggs, but we are of opinion that Gen. Twiggs will not permit it to interfere with what he believes to be due to *himself*.

He spoke during the interview of his feeble health, of his having received an offer from Georgia for a command in that State, and of his having refused it on the ground of ill health. He referred to the great expenditure of the army exclusive of the pay of the troops, said it is more than a million and a half, and inquired where Texas could obtain means to meet that out lay which she would lose by seceding. These and other remarks on the question by him forced a somewhat unwilling conviction on the minds of the undersigned that he was decidedly averse to the secession of Texas. He mentioned the omission of Capt. Ross, to do full justice to Sergeant Spangler, and the omission of Gov. Houston to give credit to Maj. Van Dorn for his success in the Comanche fight, and remarked that these were indications of the temper of Texas towards the officers and men of the army. The conclusion we have arrived at, is this, that we must obtain possession of that which now belongs to Texas of right, by force or such a display of force as will compel a compliance with our demands and that without an hour's unnecessary delay. In all these movements, celerity, secrecy and strength should be our motto.

If there are any men to spare on or near the Colorado, we think it would be well for them to move in as large numbers and as speedily as possible, towards the city, to support if necessary, Col. McCulloch's movement. Whatever is to be done up north, it is well should be done speedily. You had better inquire of Messrs. Hall and Hyde, of the Legislature the condition of Forts Bliss and Quitman, as the men and munitions in those forts could be moved without delay to New Mexico, giving to the federal government at Washington, a large body of troops, to hold that country against the Southern movement, and thus build up a free State to injure and annoy us in the not very remote future. By referring to the inclosed order, you will perceive Gen Twiggs is preparing for a move. We are decidedly of

the opinion for the reasons set forth, with reference to New Mexico, that it will be unwise to permit a single company of United States Troops to march from any portion of Texas into New Mexico. If the officers are determined to carry them to aid Lincoln's government, let them go by the way of the coast or we can disband them if we so decide. We repeat it we must not let a single company from Fort Bliss to Fort Brown, leave the State by the Kansas, New Mexico or any other route, save the coast.

The Captain commanding the Ordnance Department at this point is not friendly to our cause. He is said to be in possession of about \$40,000 for the construction of the United States Arsenal; what do you suggest respecting his being compelled to deliver it up, if in his possession, and what course do you suggest in the premises?

We would like to have any suggestions or instructions you may consider necessary; we would adhere to them if circumstances demanded it, (if in our power,) if not we will do what the emergencies of the hour demand, doing what we believe to be our duty, and leaving the consequences to God.

In haste, we remain yours, etc.,

[Signed,]

THOS. J. DEVINE,
S. A. MAVERICK,
P. N. LUCKETT.

On the 9th of February the committee forwarded by express the following instructions to Col. Ben. McCulloch the military commander, in addition to those contained in the secret instructions to the commissioners. It was thought prudent and expedient to enlarge his sphere of action since it was now evident that he was called into the field.

To COL. BEN. M. CULLOCH:

Sir:—Having received information that the Commissioners Sam. A. Maverick and others sent to San Antonio to confer with Gen. Twiggs, have under their instructions, called you into the field. The committee have resolved to confer upon you the military commission of Colonel of Cavalry to date as of the 3rd inst., in the District embracing a point on the Rio Grande half way between Forts Duncan and McIntosh, and with the frontier to Fort Chadbourne, including San Antonio and all intermediate posts; and in addition to the instructions given to the Commissioners heretofore, (with whom you are advised freely to confer on all subjects of interest as far as possible) you are instructed that

Should it be deemed advisable to retain any portion, or all of the Federal troops in your District in the temporary service of the State, you can do so and assure them that Texas will use her best endeavors with the Southern Confederacy to be formed to have them incorporated into the army of said Confederacy with the same rank now held by them.

In case any or all of them should express a desire to depart the country peaceably, you may permit them so to do upon such terms as will not dishonor them, and as will insure the public safety and in such manner as will insure safety to their persons and property. The committee also desire that the Commissioners will, under the powers heretofore given them, furnish such aid and assistance as may be deemed necessary.

In all other matters not contained in these or the previous instructions, you will observe your best judgment and discretion in any emergency which may present itself.

Any information that you may desire to give to the committee will be expressed to Jno. C. Robertson, Galveston, Texas.

[Signed]

JNO. C. ROBERTSON,
Chairman Com. Public Safety.

ATTEST :

R. T. BROWNRIGG, *Sec'y to Com.*

On the 10th February, said Commissioners to San Antonio, sent the following communication to the committee :

SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 10th, 1861.

JNO. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman Committee of Public Safety:

DEAR SIR:—We have nothing to communicate since our letter of the 8th, unless it be the receipt of a communication from Col. McCulloch, informing the undersigned of his having received our communication, and that he expected to be at or near Seguin on the 13th or 14th, with whatever force he could raise.

After dispatching our communication to you we determined if possible to prevent the necessity of resorting to a display of force around this city, and with that object in view we again communicated with Gen. Twiggs in writing, requesting from him a written statement of what he was willing to do. The answer to this was an order to Major Vinton, Maj. Maclin and Capt. Whiteley, to confer with the undersigned to transact such business as relates to the disposition of public property. On the

receipt of this communication, on the morning of the 9th, we replied that we would meet the military commission at 12 o'clock that day at such place as they might designate, and if that hour did not suit their convenience, then at such time and place as they might designate that afternoon. The answer expressed a desire to meet the committee at Gen. Twiggs's at 10 o'clock, A. M., on the 11th. We will to-morrow present our request in writing, and the answer will enable the committee to judge with a reasonable certainty whether the whole proceeding is not intended for delay, until Gen. Twiggs can call in several companies from the outposts and the additional reinforcements of several soldiers *en route* with a provision train from the coast for Arizona. Upon one point, Gen. Twiggs is fixed and apparently unalterable, that is that the troops in Texas under his command shall retain *all their arms* with the means to carry them out of the State.

What do you think of that? Please give the views of the committee on this and every other subject connected with our mission as fully and speedily as possible. We again repeat that it is not desirable that a single company of U. S. troops shall move to New Mexico or Arizona. If the troops of the Northern government concentrate in either of those territories, we believe from their peculiar position that it will fix their status as "free soil" territories and leave us a nest of hornets to deal with in the future.

We will require means for the subsistence of the troops that may be called out by Gen. McCulloch or from this city and vicinity ; we desire some information on this point, as your committee must be aware that the readiness with which the necessary expenses are met in the commencement may have a salutary influence in many respects upon our cause in the future.

If there is any action had or information obtained respecting the Northern Posts, it might be desirable that we should be put in possession of such information, as it may influence our action materially.

[Signed]

Very respectfully,

THOMAS J. DEVINE,
S. A. MAVERICK,
P. N. LUCKETT.

To this communication the chairman of the committee returned the following answer, which met with the approbation of the committee :

AUSTIN, TEXAS, Feb. 12th, 1861.

THOMAS J. DEVINE, S. A. MAVERICK, P. N. LUCKETT, *Commissioners* :

GENTLEMEN :—Your letter bearing date of the 10th inst., to me has been received. In view of the committee's departure this afternoon for Galveston they cannot be got together even if it were necessary ; the result of the action of the committee on the subjects contained in this communication, I think, is full, and hope, will meet your views. The committee do not desire to dishonor the army, by requiring of them anything which would seem to do so. If you have to resort to force (actual) and are successful, then we suppose of course, they would be vanquished and must submit to your terms ; but if you treat with them as gentlemen, as equals, of course we would not desire anything dishonorable to be yielded by them, but this is mere speculation on my part. The instructions we think will meet with your views, if not, you have a large discretion. As to whether they should be permitted to go out into Arizona and New Mexico, the committee have very wisely left that matter discretionary with you. It is the opinion however of some of the committee, that it can make but little difference, in which direction they leave the country.

It is suggested that they might land below the mouth of the Rio Grande and travel up into Arizona and New Mexico ; besides, if it is the policy of the U. S. of the North to concentrate a force in those territories we could not prevent it by requiring these to go by way of the coast. It is a matter of some importance to know how they could subsist in those territories at this time. The productions of those territories could not subsist them a week without ruin to the few who are there. Many of the committee do not think Gen. Twiggs would be so recklessly regardless of his native South as to inaugurate a guerrilla warfare upon her border. But, gentlemen, you are in the midst of the circumstances, and can best judge of what to do. Relying upon your wisdom and prudence, we leave it with you.

We will start to-day for Galveston, where we hope to get some money, and if successful we will promptly express a part to you.

In behalf of the committee I assure you of our sincere desire for your success in your patriotic enterprise, and of our personal regard for each of you.

I have the honor to remain, your ob't serv't,

[Signed]

JNO. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman Committee of Public Safety.

The committee remained in painful suspense, and looked with no ordinary anxiety for the next news from said commissioners and from Col. McCulloch ; believing as they did, that a conflict was inevitable. The committee felt many gloomy forebodings, not that they doubted the result of the conflict, for they had every confidence in the gallantry and chivalry of the Texas volunteers, and in the military skill, prudence and bravery of the officer in command. The committee likewise drew great consolation from their reliance upon the prudence and wisdom of the Commissioners. The committee were happily relieved by the following communication from the Commissioners, which is submitted with the accompanying documents :

SAN ANTONIO, February 18th, 1861:

HON. J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety.

SIR :—We have at last completed the principal part of the business confided to our management. In our communication of the 8th inst., we informed you that we had called in the aid of the volunteer force under Col. Ben McCulloch ; he arrived of the Salado, five miles from this city, on the evening or night of the 6th inst., with about 500 men, and marched into town about 4 o'clock, P. M., with about one half of his force, when he was joined by about one hundred and fifty K. G. C's and about the same number of citizens who were not members of the order, and about the same number from the Medina, Atascosa and the country west of this city. At 5 O'clock the men were in positions around the Arsenal, the Ordnance, the Alamo and the Quarters in the Commissary buildings occupied by one company of the Federal Troops, and at the same time the tops of the buildings commanding the Arsenal and Ordnance ground were occupied. We, in accordance with our instructions repeated the demand, and after considerable delay, came to an arrangement with Gen. Twiggs, the substance of which was, that the U. S. troops in San Antonio, 160 in number, should surrender up the position held by them, and that all public property under the command of the officer in San Antonio to be delivered over to the undersigned. The troops to retain their side arms, camp and garrison equipage, and the facilities of transportation to the coast, to be delivered up on their arrival at the coast. This morning we effected an arrangement

with Gen. Twiggs, by which it is agreed that all forts in Texas shall forthwith be delivered up, the troops to march from Texas by way of the coast, the Cavalry and Infantry to retain their arms, the Artillery companies being allowed to retain two batteries, of Light Artillery of four guns, each the necessary means of transportation and subsistence, to be allowed the troops on their march towards the coast; all public property to be delivered up. We might possibly have retained the guns at Fort Duncan, by a display of force, which display of force would have cost the State eight times the value of the batteries of light artillery. Your instructions, however, counseled avoiding collision with the Federal troops if it could be avoided.— Gen. Twiggs having repeatedly asserted in the presence of the military commission and ourselves, that he would die before he would permit his men to be disgraced by a surrender of their arms; that the men under his command had never been dishonored or disgraced, and they never should if he could help it. By this arrangement, at least thirteen hundred thousand of property will belong to the State, the greater portion of which would be otherwise destroyed or squandered. By this arrangement we are freed without bloodshed or trouble, from the presence of the Federal troops; they cannot go to New Mexico or Kansas to fix freesoilism on the one, or to be the nucleus of a northern army on the other, to menace our frontier in the future. The labor performed by the undersigned in the business undertaken by them, has been neither light nor pleasant, we have adhered to the letter and the spirit of our instructions, and exercised our discretion only when it became absolutely necessary. We had some anxious hours resting upon us from the time the volunteer force commenced closing around the city, until after the surrender of the posts held by the United States troops. Our force must have been at 8 o'clock, A. M., not less than one thousand one hundred men under arms, and a more respectable looking or orderly body of men than the volunteer force, it would not be easy to find. We have taken measures to secure the public property and have authorized Major Sackfield Maclin, Paymaster U. S. A., and who, as you will perceive from the army list, stands high upon the same, to act as Adjutant and inspector General and Chief of Ordnance, combining the business of three departments in one. This economises expense and gives the State for the present, the services of a man competent to the duties assigned him, capable of preventing the confusion and consequent loss that would fall upon the State by the appointment of an incompetent person. Maj.

Maclin is a true southern man, he resigns his commission in the Federal army, giving up an income from that government of nearly \$4,000 per annum. We address him as Col. for the purpose of giving him an honorable stand in his expectations or claims on the Southern Confederacy in some future military appointment. His appointment by the undersigned lasts until set aside by you or the Convention's order. Please let us know whether you approve of this action. Capt. Reynolds, has been acting as Assistant Quartermaster at San Antonio, he will resign his commission as Captain in the U. S. Army, we have for the same reasons set forth in Major Maclin's case, appointed him Chief Quartermaster, and have combined with the former duties the labor of the Commissary Department, which has heretofore had a first and second assistant Commissary. We have likewise consolidated with his duties, the office of Military Store-keeper, narrowing down the expense as much as possible. A building rented by the U. S. Government as a Commissary department, Soldiers' Quarters, General Staff, &c., we have determined to release the State from any liability for, as the Commissary stores can be stored in the Alamo buildings; said buildings rent for \$6,000 a year. In furnishing the U. S. troops transportation facilities, the officers representing the State will be busily employed, for some time. When we can obtain a breathing spell, we will go into further details, we will select agents to give receipts and hold the public property left at the posts, until otherwise directed.

We remain respectfully, &c,
 THOS. J. DEVINE,
 S. A. MAVERICK,
 P. N. LUCKETT.

Commissioners on behalf of the Committee on Public Safety.

The following report from Col. Ben McCulloch, is herewith also submitted :

HEAD QUARTERS, MIDDLE DIVISION. }
 State forces, San Antonio Texas. }

HON. J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety.

SIR :—On the receipt of the order of the Commissioners call-

ing on me to raise men for the purpose of securing the property, arms, &c., of the United States, at San Antonio immediately I proceeded to take steps to collect such a force as would be sufficient to accomplish the purpose. To Texans, a moments notice is sufficient when their State demands their services.

On the night of the 15th inst., by 12 o'clock, a force of near four hundred men, from the adjacent counties had assembled on the Rio Salado. At 3 o'clock, A. M., 16th, we took up the line of march for the city, at 4 o'clock, when near the suburbs, ninety men were ordered to dismount and enter the city on foot, when I posted them in such positions as commanded those occupied by the Federal troops. The main body came in on horse-back, at daylight several volunteer companies of San Antonio turned out promptly, and co-operated with us to aid the State, orders were given to the troops under my command not to fire until fired upon. In a very short time it was ascertained that no resistance would be offered. The Federal troops were requested to keep within their quarters until the Commissioners should agree upon the terms by which the arms and other property of the Federal Government should be surrendered to the State.

This was decided by the Commissioners and General Twiggs before 12 M., wherefore I instantly informed the forces under my command of the fact, and of there being no necessity for their remaining away from their ploughs and other peaceful avocations. They left immediately for their homes, conscious of having rendered service to their State, and giving offence to no one save her enemies.

To make distinctions where all acted so nobly, would be as unwise as unjust, but I cannot refrain from expressing my thanks to all for their gallant and prompt response to the call of their State, and my admiration for their orderly conduct whilst we held the city.

Having performed the duty assigned me by the enclosed order, I now report myself ready to perform such service as shall be assigned me by your committee or the Commissioners appointed by you. The Commissioners having very kindly relieved me of many duties common to officers commanding. It being my duty only to organize and command such forces as may be necessary to secure and guard the public property in my division in charge of persons appointed by the commissioners to receive the same from the Federal officers.

I have this day appointed W. T. Mechling my Assistant Adjutant General, with the rank of Captain.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your ob'd't. serv't.,

BEN McCULLOCH,

Colonel Commanding.

HEAD QUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS, }
San Antonio, February 18th, 1861. }

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 5. }

The State of Texas having demanded through its Commissioners, the delivery of military posts and public property within the limits of this command ; and the Commanding General desiring to avoid even the possibility of a collision between the Federal and State troops ; the posts will be evacuated by their garrisons, and these will take up, as soon as the necessary preparations can be made, their line of march out of Texas, by way of the coast—marching out with their arms (the light batteries with their guns,) clothing, camp and garrison equipage, Quarter Master's stores, subsistence, medical, hospital stores, and such means of transportation of every kind, as may be necessary for an efficient and orderly movement of the troops prepared for attack or defence against aggressions from any source.

The troops will carry with them provisions as far as the coast.

BY ORDER OF BREVET MAJOR GENERAL TWIGGS,

U. A. NICHOLS,

Ass't. Adj't. Gen.

SAN ANTONIO, February 18th, 1861.

The undersigned, Commissioners on the part of the State of Texas, fully empowered to exercise the authority undertaken by them, have formally and solemnly agreed with Brevet Major General David E. Twiggs, United States Army, commanding the Department of Texas, that the troops of the United States shall leave the soil of the State, by the way of the coast ; that they shall take with them the arms of the respective corps, including the battery of light artillery at Fort Duncan, and the battery of the same character at Fort Brown ; and shall be allowed the

necessary means for regular and comfortable movement, provisions, tents etc., etc., and transportation.

It is the desire of the Commission that there be no infraction of this agreement on the part of the people of the State. It is their wish on the contrary, that every facility shall be afforded the troops. They are our friends. They have heretofore afforded to our people all the protection in their power, and we owe them every consideration.

The public property at various posts, other than that above recited for the use of the troops, will be turned over to agents to be appointed by the Commission, who will give due and proper receipts for the whole, to the officers of the army, whom they relieve from the custody of the public property.

THOS. J. DEVINE,
P. N. LUCKETT,
S. A. MAVERICK.

Com'r's. on behalf of the Committee on Pub. Safety.

Your committee herewith submit to the Convention a full and complete report of the Commissioners to San Antonio, in regard to the subject of their mission. -

SAN ANTONIO, }
March 2nd, 1861. }

To JOHN C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of the Committee of Public Safety :

SIR :—The undersigned Commissioners appointed by the Committee of Public Safety to visit San Antonio and confer with Brevet Major Gen. David E. Twiggs, 'U. S. A.' Commanding Department of Texas, on the subject of the public property in the State under his control, and to demand the delivery of the same should it be deemed necessary,—submit the following as a report of their proceedings and a statement of subjects connected therewith.

Having arrived in San Antonio, the Commissioners on the evening of the 7th ult., communicated with Gen. Twiggs, when it was arranged that the next day should be the time for a formal interview with him respecting the subject intrusted to their care. Upon calling on him, the subject of the visit and extent of the powers conferred upon the Commissioners were stated and the present condition and future prospects of the State were set forth as reasons why the Federal property should be yielded up and the Federal troops removed beyond the limits of

the State. In answer to these views and demand, that officer stated that "Texas was not out of the Union and would not be before the 2nd day of March, that for his part he would obey the orders of his Government but would not draw his sword against the people of Texas, and referred to his 'order book' for proof of his having so declared in his communications to the War Department." In reply to a question respecting his removal from Texas, he admitted that he might be superseded and would only say that "all should remain as it was then until after the 2nd of March, when if Texas seceded he would then deliver up to the regularly constituted authorities of Texas all the public property under his control other than that required for the use of the troops on their march to New Mexico." The credentials of the Commissioners were presented and their contents stated, but no intimation by word or gesture was given that he desired either to inspect or hear them read. The interview was prolonged for some time but nothing more tangible elicited, save his expressed determination to carry the troops to New Mexico and his resolve to lose his life sooner than permit them while under his command to be deprived of the arms pertaining to their respective corps. After the termination of the interview the Commissioners, upon consultation, deputed one of their number to call on Gen. Twiggs and request from him a written statement of what he would be willing to perform on or after the 2nd of March. He declined giving a written statement but informed the Commissioner that a military commission would be selected to confer with the Commissioners on the subject of the disposition of public property. Believing that Gen. Twiggs would neither do nor consent to anything being done that might possibly place him in a false, or an apparently false position, either before the Government whose interests he represented or before any portion of the American people, and being satisfied that the complications likely to ensue from the command of the Department passing into other hands, or by reason of orders from Washington, being also of the opinion that the labors of the undersigned and the military commission would result in nothing but delay, and that the best interests of Texas demanded that the troops amounting to nearly three thousand should not be permitted to march into New Mexico to hold, and settle the condition of that Territory as a free soil region, or into Kansas to form the nucleus of an army to harass and waste our frontier in the event of coercion being attempted by the Northern Government, and that over five hundred thousand dollars worth of transportation facilities as likewise the cavalry horses would be lost to the State by per-

mitting the Federal troops to pass into either New Mexico, Kansas or the Indian Territory—it was determined that prompt and vigorous action was necessary. In view of this consideration and in accordance with previous instructions an express was dispatched that evening to Seguin calling on Col. Ben. McCulloch to assemble as large a force of the volunteers and minute men of the State as could be immediately collected and without delay to hasten to San Antonio. The next day a communication was received from Gen. Twiggs informing the Commissioners that Major Vinton, Chief Quartermaster, Major Macklin, Paymaster and Captain Whiteley, Chief of Ordnance, were appointed to act as a military commission to meet the undersigned respecting the disposition of the Federal property. A conference was had on this subject which resulted only in expressions on the part of Major Vinton and Captain Whiteley that it was proper and necessary that the troops should leave Texas by the Kansas route that a considerable time would be necessarily consumed in arranging the heads of the various subjects to be discussed, and much time required to examine the different points raised. This conference terminated without any advance being made towards an agreement for the delivery of the Government property or the departure of the troops from Texas, and resulted in nothing save an increased belief on the part of the undersigned that delay was the object in view sought to be obtained by Gen. Twiggs in appointing the military commission and the end for which two of that body (Major Vinton and Captain Whiteley) were acting. Two other interviews were had in which the same purpose was apparent and at the last interview held, Major Vinton in reply to a question by the Commissioners as to when an answer would be given to their last communication, stated that “a reply would be given some time between that day and the 2nd of March.” This closed the interviews and a second express was sent to Col. McCulloch with suggestions respecting his movements.

On the morning of the 16th, that officer entered San Antonio with his command and being joined by the city companies, and about one hundred citizens of San Antonio, and those from the Medina and Atascosa—the Alamo, Commissary and Arsenal buildings were surrounded and commanding positions secured before daylight on the roofs of the adjoining buildings. At 6 o'clock, A. M., a demand in writing in accordance with their instructions was again made on Gen. Twiggs for the surrender of all public property and Posts, and the interview between that officer and the undersigned resulted in the surrender of the Posts held by the Federal troops and the delivery of all public property

in San Antonio to the Commissioners. The U. S. troops were permitted to retain their clothing, &c., &c., and marched out that evening to encamp at the San Pedro Springs, about one mile from the city, there to remain until transportation was furnished to convey them to the coast.

The property and posts in the city are held and guarded by seventy citizen soldiers. Negotiations were continued during the 17th, and on the evening of the 18th were terminated by Gen. Twiggs agreeing that all posts held by the Federal troops should be yielded to the Commissioners, as likewise all public property under his control, that the troops should retain the arms belonging to the respective corps—which included two batteries of light artillery, the clothing of the men, the necessary stores, &c., &c., for an orderly movement to the coast—the transportation facilities, on reaching the coast, to be delivered up to the agents authorized to receive them.

The arrangements entered into between the Commissioners and the General commanding the Federal troops in Texas it is believed are the best (so far as regards the safety of the State, its honor and pecuniary interest) that could be made. At the same time no humiliating conditions or unnecessary restrictions have been imposed on the officers of the late U. S. Government. The departure of the troops by the way of the coast was viewed from the beginning by the Commissioners as a measure of precaution coupled with a question of property—both ends have been attained. The permitting of two batteries of light artillery to leave the State has been a subject of complaint on the part of some of our people. Those persons however do not consider or ignore the fact that these batteries belong to and constitute as completely the arms of an artillery corps as do the muskets of the infantry, or sabre, or carbine of the cavalry, that with Texas it was a mere question of property not exceeding eight thousand dollars in value—with Gen. Twiggs, his officers and men, it was a question of honor—a principle dear to the humblest as to the highest soldier in the army; that Gen. Twiggs had repeatedly declared he would sacrifice his life sooner than see his men dishonored or disgraced by being deprived of their arms. It is true the eight guns could have been secured, but at a cost to the State of more than twenty times their value in the payment and subsistence of the volunteer force necessary for that purpose to which might be added the probabilities of a collision with its attendant loss of life and the grave consequences necessarily resulting therefrom. In addition to this may be stated the loss to Texas of all the mule teams, cavalry, horses, &c., at the upper posts of

Bliss, Quitman, Davis, Stockton, Lancaster, Hudson and Fort Clarke, which would have been carried with the troops at these posts into New Mexico—with the humiliation of a distinguished and honored soldier and the officers and men under his command.

For the correspondence between the undersigned, Gen. Twiggs, Col. McCulloch and the Military Commission, see documents numbered from one to sixteen inclusive.

In estimating the value of the property secured to the State, no exact statement can be made of the amount remaining at the different posts until inventories are received from the agents dispatched to those points. The entire value secured to the State may be estimated at a fair valuation as being worth not less than \$1,600,000. It consists as follows:

At the San Antonio Depot, cost of Arsenal grounds, buildings and material of every kind on the ground,	51,500 00
Ordnance stores, including arms, powder and ammunitions of every kind,	282,132 26
Brass guns, Howitzers, etc., etc., at different posts in Texas,	24,635 00
Quarter Masters stores,	178,666 00
Commissary stores,	19,702 87
Medical and Hospital stores,	30,175 00
Soldiers' clothing, camp and garrison equipage,	194,997 26
Total amount of property at San Antonio, including Cannon at different posts valued at \$24,635 00,	781,808 39
It is estimated that the mules, cavalry, horses transportation facilities, Camels, provisions and other property at the various posts, exclusive of buildings, will amount at first cost to not less than	700,000 00

Making in all available to the State for purposes connected with the defence of the frontier and for other uses, should the same become necessary.

Total, \$1,481,808 39

The cost of placing the above property at its various locations has cost the Federal Government not less than \$100,000.

Surplus of funds seized in San Antonio, estimated at \$23,472 00.

For lists of the above property see exhibits marked A B C D E F G H I J and K.

For lists of persons retained for the present in the public employment in connection with the Quarter Master's and Commissary Department, see report of agent marked exhibit L.

The successor of Gen. Twiggs, Col. C. A. Waite, arrived in this city a few hours after the negotiations with Gen. Twiggs had been closed. Since that time the undersigned have been actively engaged in settling questions connected with the movements of the troops towards the coast and arranging the necessary means for their transportation.

Competent persons have been selected to proceed to, and take charge of the property at the Posts about being abandoned by the Federal troops. Bonds with sufficient securities have been required and given for the faithful execution of the duties entrusted to the agents. Small detachments of men for the protection of the buildings and public property at each post have been dispatched under the orders of Col. McCulloch. The detachments sent to the different posts, vary in number from ten to twenty-five. They will remain at the points designated until further action is had by the Convention or Legislature of the State, on this subject see document number 25.

On the morning of the 25th ult., information having been received that Capt. King, 'U. S. A.,' encamped with his company near this city had enlisted a soldier to serve in the army of the late U. S. Government, a note was dispatched to Col. Waite, demanding the immediate discharge of the enlisted man and requesting that no further enlistments should be permitted by him in Texas. For his reply announcing the discharge of the soldier and stating that nothing of the kind would be permitted by him, see documents Nos. 17 and 18.

In the performance of the duties confided to the undersigned in reference to obtaining all public moneys or funds, the most determined unwillingness to give any information has been displayed by the disbursing officers in this city with the exception of Major Maclin, Paymaster, Capt. Reynolds, Assistant Quartermaster and Capt. W. B. Blair, Chief of Commissary Department.

On the evening after the surrender of the property and posts in San Antonio, the safe of Capt. Reynolds in his office at the Alamo, was taken possession of. The amount of public funds contained therein is between nine and ten thousand dollars. This amount is more than covered by the debts previously contracted with, and due citizens.

With a view of securing to the people of Texas the sums due them, and to prevent the money from being carried out of the

State, as also with the intention of securing any surplus funds, and for the purpose of ascertaining the debts due our citizens with the desire of having some reliable data upon which the State might act with reference to the honest or fraudulent claims that will in all probability be brought against her as the recipient of the Federal property in Texas, the Commissioners repeatedly requested a statement from the disbursing officers of the funds and credits belonging to their departments, with a list of the debts contracted by them in the State. On the 22nd of February, 1861, the request was again made and the questions set forth in document numbered 20, were presented and answers required. Capt. Blair, Commissary and Major Maclin, Paymaster, have answered. By the answer of Capt. Blair it will be seen that the debts exceed the funds and credits of his department. From the statement of Major Maclin it appears that the sum of twenty-three thousand four hundred and seventy-two dollars will remain after all claims against his department have been liquidated. This money is supposed to be *en route* from New Orleans to this city, and measures have been taken by the undersigned to seize and secure it. Upon receiving the answers of Capt. Blair and Major Maclin the guards placed upon their offices were immediately withdrawn. See answers of Capt. Blair and Major Maclin, marked Nos. 27 and 28.

Major Vinton, Chief Quartermaster, Major McClure, Paymaster and Capt. Whiteley, Chief of Ordnance, having refused to answer or give any information on the subject, the guards placed upon their officers on the 27th ult., still remain. It is proper to state that Major Maclin and Capt. Blair were willing from the beginning of the inquiry to make a statement and that guards were placed at their offices more for the purpose of preventing invidious remarks than from any other cause. For further information respecting the demands for public funds, see documents numbered from 2 to 28 inclusive.

In a previous communication you were informed that Major Maclin had been appointed to take charge of the Ordnance Department and to act as Adjutant and Inspector General until further action by your body or the Convention. He has resigned his position in the U. S. army and has entered upon the duties assigned him. You were also informed that Capt. Reynolds had been appointed to control the Quartermasters Department, &c. He has tendered his resignation and is awaiting the action of the authorities at Washington. Messrs. Maverick and Luckett are at present, assisted by competent agents, performing the duties connected with the Quartermaster's Department.

The two companies of U. S. troops formerly stationed in this city passed through on their march to the coast this morning.

The expenses connected with the action of the Commissioners have been paid or to some extent assumed by them, while the outlay caused by the transportation of the U. S. troops to the coast will be paid by their officers. The expenses incident to the protection and management of the property now belonging to Texas must be paid by her. An estimate of the liabilities which have accrued will be presented for your consideration. All needless expenses have been cut off both as regards the rent of buildings and the employment of men. A still greater reduction will be made in a few days.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

THOS. J. DEVINE,
P. N. LUCKETT,
S. A. MAVERICK.

Commissioners on behalf of Com. of Public Safety.

AUSTIN, March 6th, 1861.

TO HON. JOHN C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of committee of Safety:

As a supplement to the preceding report, the undersigned would state that, having received information three days before the arrival of the force under Col. McCulloch at San Antonio, that four wagons with arms and fixed ammunition had been dispatched, two *via* Indianola for Fort Brown and two for Fort Mason, a force was immediately sent in pursuit, the teams on the Indianola road were overtaken about forty miles, and those destined for Fort Mason, about sixty miles from San Antonio, the wagons were brought back to that city and their contents deposited in the Ordnance Department.

Having received information on the evening of the 2nd inst., that depredations were being committed on public property at Camp Verde by some of the soldiers of company A first Infantry U. S. A., a note was immediately forwarded to Col. Waite informing him of the fact and that such depredation was considered a violation of the stipulations entered into between Gen. Twiggs and the undersigned, and that the officers and men belonging to any company committing any depredations in the future would be held personally liable, and requested Col. Waite to remove the troops from that post without delay. Capt. Frank Hubert's company of Washington county volunteers numbering twenty-

five men under the command of Lieut. Haynes, then in San Antonio, were directed to march next morning at daylight for Camp Verde and there remain for the protection of the public property and buildings until further orders.

The public funds alluded to in the preceding report as being *en route* from the coast to San Antonio, were seized by a portion of Capt. Edgar's company of Alamo Guards, acting under the orders of the Commissioners on the morning of the 4th inst., and are now in the Alamo buildings under guard, subject to the action of the Convention. See report of Commissioners marked exhibit W.

In conclusion it may be proper to add that in view of the uncertainties connected with the attempt to force the General commanding the Federal troops in Texas into a surrender of the positions held by the troops under his command, and a delivery up of the public property under his control in Texas, without bloodshed, the consequences resulting from which no man could foresee, the city authorities deemed it proper and necessary to close all places of public resort in the city of San Antonio upon the arrival of the troops under the command of Col. McCulloch, and during the time the troops raised in the city as well as those from other counties remained under arms.

In connection with this subject it may be added that a more orderly body of men under similar circumstances never appeared under arms, their conduct throughout was of a character well calculated to reflect the greatest credit upon themselves and the cause to uphold which they had left their homes and appeared in arms.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

THOS. J. DEVINE,

on behalf of the Commissioners.

It will thus be seen that all the U. S. troops stationed on the Indian frontier, and the frontier bordering on Mexico, along the Rio Grande, have been removed and are on the line of march to the gulf coast. The moral of their presence to prevent Indian depredations having been destroyed, it is thought that the frontier is in most imminent danger, and they have evidence of very recent murders in that region.

The committee believe that the people along the whole line of the frontier are true and loyal to the cause of the South, and look with intense anxiety for the Convention to furnish them with immediate and prompt protection. Encouraged and aided by the enemies of Texas, the Indians will, unless timely assistance be furnished, commit the most horrid depredations. With

the view of rendering to the frontier this protection, and that it may be accomplished speedily and efficiently, as well also, to show to the government of the Confederate States, of which we hope soon to become a member, that we are not unmindful of what is due to our people, and as an indication to that government of what is expected for our defence, and particularly, to save the lives of our women and children in that region, the committee instruct me to report an Ordinance for the raising of volunteer forces, which they hope the Convention will find it expedient to adopt.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully.

JOHN C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety.

CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE COMMISSIONERS TO SAN ANTONIO,
GEN. TWIGGS, AND THE MILITARY COMMISSION.

SAN ANTONIO, Feb., 8th, 1861.

DEAR SIR:—In reference to the interview which the undersigned had with you this morning, in the presence of Major Nichols, in regard to the public property, and your disposition to keep the same in its present position until March 2nd proximo, the undersigned beg you will be so kind as to give them in writing, such statements as you may deem material and proper on that subject.

With high consideration

Your obedient serv'ts,

[signed] THOS. J. DEVINE,
SAM'L A. MAVERICK,
P. N. LUCKETT,

Commissioners on behalf of the Convention of the people of Texas.

TO MAJ. GEN. D. E. TWIGGS,
Commanding Dep't. of Texas.

HEAD QUARS. DEP'T OF TEXAS, }
 SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 9, 1861. }

TO MESSRS. THOMAS J. DEVINE,
 SAM'L A. MAVERICK,
 and P. N. LUCKETT,

*Commissioners on behalf of the Convention
 of the people of Texas, San Antonio, Texas:*

GENTLEMEN:—I am directed by the Commanding General of the Department to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 8th instant, and to inform you, in reply, that he has this day appointed a Military Commission to meet the Commissioners on behalf of the Convention of the people of Texas, to transact the necessary business respecting the disposition of the Federal property.

I am, Gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your ob't servant,

U. A. NICHOLS,

Asst. Adj't. Genl.

HEAD QUARTERS, DEP'T OF TEXAS, }
 SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 9, 1861. }

SPECIAL ORDERS, }
 No. 20. }

A military commission, to consist of Major David H. Vinton, Quartermaster, Major Sackfield Maclin, Paymaster, and Captain Robert H. K. Whiteley, Ordnance Department, is hereby appointed to meet the commissioners on behalf of the Convention of the people of Texas, Messrs. Thomas J. Devine, Sam'l A. Maverick and P. N. Luckett; at such times and places as may be agreed upon, to transact such business as relates to the disposition of the public property; upon the demands of the State of Texas.

By order of B'T MAJOR GEN'L TWIGGS,

U. A. NICHOLS,

Asst. Adj't. Genl.

SAN ANTONIO, February 9, 1861.

GENTLEMEN:—We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, in which you appoint 12 o'clock to-day or at any hour this afternoon for meeting you to consider the business connected with our several commissions. We regret that we have not been able to conform to your ap-

pointment. The want of instructions from Maj. General Twiggs, delayed by untoward circumstances, will prevent our meeting with you to-day, but we will, if it suits your convenience, have the honor to receive you at General Twiggs's office, on Monday at 9 o'clock A. M., to enter upon the business you may then lay before us.

We are, gentlemen, most respectfully

Your obedient servants,

D. H. VINTON,

Major and Quartermaster,

SACKFIELD MACLIN,

Paymaster U. S. A.,

R. H. K. WHITELEY,

Captain of Ordnance.

TO MESSRS. T. J. DEVINE, S. A. MAVERICK, P. N. LUCKETT,
Commissioners on behalf of the people of the State of Texas.
San Antonio, Texas.

SAN ANTONIO, February 11th, 1861.

TO MAJOR D. H. VINTON,

" SACKFIELD MACLIN,

CAPTAIN R. K. WHITELEY,

Military Commission :

GENTLEMEN :—The undersigned, by virtue of the powers vested in them do now demand of you, in the name and by the authority of the sovereign people of the State of Texas, in convention assembled, as they have heretofore demanded of Brevet Major General David E. Twiggs, commanding in the Department of Texas, a delivery of all the arms of every description, military stores, including Quartermaster's, commissary and medical stores and public moneys and everything else under the control of the General in command, belonging to the Federal Government.

If an affirmative answer is not given to this demand, the following questions are submitted for your consideration, and answers to the same are respectfully required.

1st. Do you consent and agree to the following stipulations :

1st. That every thing under the contrroll of the commanding General in the Department of Texas shall remain in *statu quo*, until the 2d day of March next ?

2d. That no movement, change of position, or concentration of the troops shall take place ?

3d. That none of the arms, ordnance, military stores or other property shall be disposed of before that time, (ordinary consumption excepted.)

4th. That upon the 2d day of March, the public property in Texas shall, without delay, be delivered up to the undersigned or such other commissioners, who may be authorized to act on behalf of the Convention?

An answer is respectfully required.

We remain, gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

[signed] THOS. J. DEVINE,
S. A. MAVERICK,
P. N. LUCKETT,

Commissioners on behalf of the Convention.

SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 12, 1861.

TO MESSRS THOS. J. DEVINE,
S. A. MAVERICK,
P. N. LUCKETT,

Commissioners on behalf of the Convention of the people of Texas:

GENTLEMEN:—We, the Military Commission, appointed by Maj. Gen'l Twiggs, have had the honor to receive your communication of the 11th inst., while in convention, demanding of us "in the name and by the authority of the Sovereign People of Texas, in convention assembled," a delivery of "all arms of every description, military stores, including Quartermaster's, Commissary and medical stores, and public moneys, and every thing else under the control of the General in command, belonging to the Government," adding that, "if an affirmative answer is not given to this demand" you submit the following questions for our consideration and reply, viz:

1st. "Do you consent and agree to the following stipulations:

1st. That every thing under the control of the Gen'l commanding in the Department of Texas, shall remain in *statu quo*, until the 2d day of March next?"

2d. "That no movement, change of position, or concentration of the troops shall take place?"

3d. "That none of the arms, ordnance, military stores or other property shall be disposed of before that time, ordinary consumption excepted?"

4th. "That upon the 2d day of March, the public property

in Texas shall without delay be delivered up to the undersigned or such other Commissioners who may be authorized to act on behalf of the Convention?"

To the 1st of the foregoing interrogatories, we have the honor to state, that we are willing that every thing shall remain in *statu quo* until the 2d day of March next; provided, that the General commanding the Department shall not receive orders from higher authority than himself to remove the troops from Texas, or find it necessary to resist the inroads of marauding parties of Indians, the enemies of Texas, and of our common country, or attacks upon the troops or military posts in Texas by irresponsible parties coming from any quarter whatever.

With regard to your 2nd proposition, it is hereby agreed, that no movement or change of position of the troops shall take place, unless the commanding General shall find it necessary to act under the contingencies mentioned in the next preceding answer.

To the 3rd question we reply, that as it is not the intention of the Commanding General to dispose of, or to place out of reach of the authorities of Texas, any of the property, otherwise than to meet, with it, the common wants of the military service; so do we agree to your proposition.

And to your last inquiry, we have to remark, that a compliance with the demands of Texas, whether made through you or other Commissioners, appointed for the purpose, will be yielded under the following conditions, viz: That the moneys in the hands of disbursing officers being out of the control of the commanding General, and considered as peculiarly a matter of individual accountability to the Treasury of the United States by those officers, involving the responsibility of their bondsmen, and being necessary for the payment of the troops and debts already contracted in Texas; they will not be relinquished on the demand of Texas. That the troops now in the Department of Texas shall retain their legitimate arms in possession, and march out of Texas with them; the requisite ammunition, clothing, and camp and garrison equipage, Quartermaster's stores, subsistence, medical and hospital stores, and such means of transportation of every kind, as may be necessary for an efficient and orderly movement of the troops from Texas, prepared for attack or defense against aggression from any source. That the officers of the Gen'l Staff at Department headquarters, their families, and movable property, shall be transported in their egress from Texas, by the public means now at this depot, which means shall be retained for that purpose, and when such service

shall have been performed, the said means shall be surrendered to the regularly authorized persons to receive them. That all property delivered up to the authorities of Texas, under the foregoing stipulations, shall be receipted for by agents appointed by said authorities.

We are, gentlemen, very respectfully

Your obedient servants,

D. H. VINTON,
Major and Quartermaster,
SACKFIELD MACLIN,
Paymaster U. S. A.,
R. H. K. WHITELEY,
Captain of Ordnance.

SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 14, 1861.

MAJOR D. H. VINTON,
" SACKFIELD MACLIN,
CAPTAIN R. H. K. WHITELEY.

*Military Commission acting on behalf of
Maj. Gen. D. E. Twiggs:*

GENTLEMEN:—The undersigned commissioners on behalf of the Convention of the people of the State of Texas, acting through the committee of Public Safety, have had the honor to receive your communication of the 13th instant, while in conference, and have the honor to reply to the answers contained in your note as follows: We are unable to accept as satisfactory your answer to that question in our note of the 11th instant, relating to the movement or position of the troops in Texas, as your reply, by a reasonable construction of its language, if not in express terms, asserts the right and intention of the General in command of the Department of Texas, to make any movement by the troops that may be ordered by an authority higher than himself. The question is consequently left unanswered as far as it relates to the object which the undersigned had in view in presenting this question for consideration, which object was fully set forth in the conference of the 11th instant. If the question be considered as answered by your reply to it, then the undersigned are constrained to consider it as a substantial denial of their demand on that subject.

The non-acceptance of the terms contained in your second answer rests upon the same reasons as those set forth in reply to your first answer. The 3d answer is as the undersigned had reason to believe it would be, and is accepted.

The terms embraced in your reply to our last inquiry are accepted, with the following conditions: 1st, that all moneys in Texas for the payment of troops, or the liquidation of debts of every description incurred on behalf of the Federal government shall be considered applicable to those purposes, and be turned over to the Commissioners for their disposal accordingly, and guarantees will be given by the undersigned for the prompt payment of the same, and all funds in Texas held for the Federal government, not included in the above exception shall be given up and receipted for by the undersigned. That portion of the last answer is accepted, which claims the retention by the troops in Texas of their arms and clothing, camp and garrison equipage, quartermaster's stores, subsistence, medical, hospital stores and such means of transportation of every kind as may be necessary for an efficient and orderly movement of the troops from Texas, prepared for attack or defense from any source; provided the troops shall march to the coast, in detachments of not more than 200, each detachment to be at least three days march apart, and upon arriving at the point, or points of embarkation, the teams or means of transportation, with the artillery (if any be taken by the troops) shall be delivered up to the agent appointed to receive and receipt for the same. The remaining portion of the last answer relating to the means of transportation for the officers, their families, servants and property, is accepted according to its terms.

We are, gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

[signed] THOS. J. DEVINE,

P. N. LUCKETT,

S. A. MAVERICK,

Commissioners on behalf of the Committee of Public Safety.

SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 15, 1861.

TO MESSRS. THOMAS J. DEVINE,
SAMUEL A. MAVERICK,
P. N. LUCKETT,

Commissioners on the part of the Convention of the people of Texas:

GENTLEMEN:—In acknowledgment of your communication of the 14th inst., wherein you disagree to certain points in our letter of the 12th inst., the undersigned have the honor to say that the conditions you prescribe for the movement of the Fed-

eral troops from Texas will necessarily check, for a short time, at least, further conference with you on that subject, in as much as it is one over which we have no control.

The Commander of the Department, whoever he may be, whether acting under his own judgment, or by the advice or instructions of his superiors has exclusive authority in such cases, and to him must we refer the present one, with a report of all our proceedings for his approval or disapproval, and in view of an immediate change of Commanders of the Department of Texas, Gen. Twiggs having been superceded by Col. Waite, all the proceedings of the Military commission appointed by the former officers must be submitted for the consideration and sanction of the latter; whose duty it will be to execute whatever measures that may be recommended and adopted under the action of that committee.

The undersigned would respectfully remark, that they cannot but regret that the reasons given in objection to the relinquishment of the funds in the hands of the federal disbursing officers have not met with acquiescence on the part of your Commission, they can only hope that upon reconsideration, your views may undergo a change. Under any circumstances, we trust that the Commissioners appointed by the Texas Committee of Safety will exert their influence to avert violence, either on the part of any irregular forces or organized military parties of whatever size. Believing that every thing may be done in a manner honorable to the present contending parties, and for the quiet and safety of the community in which we reside, we have full faith that your Commission will so act as to bring about results which may prevent a collision between the troops of Texas and those of the Federal government.

We are, gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

D. H. VINTON,

Major and Quartermaster,
SACKFIELD MACLIN,

Paymaster U. S. A.,
R. H. K. WHITELEY,
Captain of Ordnance.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, Feb. 16, 1861, }
6 o'Clock A. M., }

TO THE OFFICER IN COMMAND

Of the Department of Texas:

SIR :—You are hereby required, in the name and by the authority of the people of the State of Texas, in Convention assembled, to deliver up, all Military Posts and public property held by, or under your control.

Respectfully, &c. &c.,

[signed] THOS. J. DEVINE,
S. A. MAVERICK,
P. N. LUCKETT,

Commissioners on behalf of the Committee of Public Safety.

SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 17, 1861.

BY'T MAJ. GEN. D. E. TWIGGS,

Commanding Department of Texas,

SIR :—In our communication of the 16th inst., we required a delivery up, by you, of the position held, and public property held by, or under your control, as commander in this Department. As no reply, save your verbal declaration, (which declaration was that you "gave up every thing,") has been given to our note, and as the undersigned are most anxious to avoid even the possibility of a collision between the Federal troops and the force acting on behalf of the State of Texas, a collision which all reflecting persons desire to avoid, and the consequences of which, no man can predict ; we again demand the surrender up, to the undersigned, of all the posts and public property, held by you, or under your control, in this Department.

Please answer immediately.

We have the honor to remain,

Your obedient servants,

[signed] THOS. J. DEVINE,
S. A. MAVERICK,
P. N. LUCKETT,

Commissioners on behalf of the Committee of Public Safety.

HEAD QUARTERS DEP'T OF TEXAS,
SAN ANTONIO, February 17, 1861.

MESSRS. THOS. J. DEVINE,
S. A. MAVERICK,
P. N. LUCKETT,

Commissioners on behalf of the Committee of Public Safety:

GENTLEMEN :—In reply to your communication of this date, I have to say that you are already aware of my views in regard to the delivery of the public property of this Department, and I now repeat, that I will direct the positions held by the Federal troops to be turned over to the authorized agents of the State of Texas ; provided the troops retain their arms and clothing, camp and garrison equipage, quartermaster's stores, subsistence, medical, hospital stores, and such means of transportation, of every kind, as may be necessary for an efficient, and orderly movement of the the troops from Texas, prepared for attack or defense against aggressions from any source.

D. E. TWIGGS,
Bvt Maj. Gen'l U. S. A.; Com'd'g the Dept.

SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 17, 1861.

TO BV'T MAJ. GEN. D. E. TWIGGS,

Commanding the Department of Texas:

SIR :—In reply to your communication of this date, we have to say, that we accept the terms therein set forth, with the conditions stated in our note of the 14th inst., viz : that the troops shall leave Texas by the way of the coast, and upon arriving at the point or points of embarkation, will deliver up to the authorized agents appointed for that purpose, all means of transportation of every kind used by them, as likewise the artillery if any be taken.

Respectfully, &c., &.,

[signed] THOS. J. DEVINE,
S. A. MAVERICK,
P. N. LUCKETT,

Commissioners on behalf of the Committee of Public Safety.

HEAD QUARTERS, DEP'T OF TEXAS,
SAN ANTONIO, February 18th, 1861.

TO MESSRS. THOS. J. DEVINE;

S. A. MAVERICK,.

P. N. LUCKETT,.

*Commissioners on behalf of the Convention of the
People of Texas:*

GENTLEMEN: Your communication of the 17th inst., which you say is a reply to mine, written yesterday, the 17th inst, was received last night. I consent to the conditions that the troops shall leave Texas by way of the coast, with the provision expressed in my communication of yesterday.

As to the condition of surrendering the guns of the Light Batteries, that, you must see, would be an act which would cast a lasting disgrace upon the arms of the United States; and, under no circumstances, can I believe that the State of Texas would demand such a sacrifice at my hands, and, more particularly so, after I have yielded so much to meet what I deem to be due to the State, and to avoid any unnecessary collision between the Federal and State troops. In this view of the case, I am sure you will not insist on a demand which, you must see, I am not at liberty to grant.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

Bvt Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Com'd'g the Dep't.

SAN ANTONIO, February 18, 1861.

TO BV'T MAJ. GEN. D. E. TWIGGS, U. S. A.,

Commanding Department of Texas:

SIR:—In reply to your communication of this date, we have to say that we accept the terms therein stated, viz: that the two Batteries of Light Artillery, with the arms for the Infantry and Cavalry, shall be *retained* by the troops under your command, all other property as set forth in our previous communication, to be delivered up to agents authorized to receive it.

We remain, respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

[signed] THOS. J. DEVINE,

P. N. LUCKETT,

S. A. MAVERICK,

Commissioners on behalf of the Committee of Public Safety.

HEAD QUARTERS, DEP'T OF TEXAS,
SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 18, 1861.

GENERAL ORDERS, {
No. 5.

The State of Texas, having demanded, through its Commissioners, the delivery of the military posts and public property, within the limits of this command ; and the commanding General, desiring to avoid, even the possibility of a collision between the Federal and State troops ; the posts will be evacuated by their garrisons, and these will take up, as soon as the necessary preparations can be made, the line of March out of Texas, by way of the coast, marching out with their arms (the Light Batteries with their guns) clothing, camp and garrison equipage, quartermaster's stores, subsistence, medical hospital stores, and such means of transportation of every kind as may be necessary for an efficient and orderly movement of the troops, prepared for attack or defense against aggression from any source. The troops will carry with them, provisions as far as the coast.

By order of B'T MAJ. GEN. TWIGGS,
U. A. NICHOLS, *Asst. Adj't. Gen'l.*

SAN ANTONIO, February 18, 1861

The undersigned, Commissioners on the part of the State of Texas, fully empowered to exercise the authority undertaken by them, have formally and solemnly agreed with Brevet Major General David E. Twiggs, United States Army, Commanding the Department of Texas, that the troops of the United States shall leave the soil of the State, by the way of the coast ; that they shall take with them the arms of the respective corps, including the battery of light artillery at Fort Duncan, and the battery of the same character at Fort Brown ; and shall be allowed the necessary means for regular and comfortable movement, provisions, tents, etc., etc., and transportation.

It is the desire of the commission, that there shall be no infraction of this agreement on the part of the people of the State. It is their wish, on the contrary, that every facility shall be afforded the troops. They are our friends. They have heretofore afforded to our people all the protection in their power, and we owe them every consideration.

The public property at the various posts, other than that above recited for the use of the troops, will be turned over to agents, to be appointed by the Commission, who will give due

and proper receipts for the whole to the officers of the Army, whom they relieve from the custody of the public property.

THOS. J. DEVINE,
P. N. LUCKETT,
S. A. MAVERICK,

Commissioners on behalf of the Committee of Public Safety.

SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR Co., Feb 8th, 1861.

COL. BEN. McCULLOCH:

SIR:—The undersigned, by virtue of the powers vested in them by the Committee of Public safety, do hereby authorize and direct you, in the name and by the authority of the State of Texas, to call out and collect such numbers of the volunteer force or "Minute Men" as you may deem necessary for securing and protecting the public property at San Antonio. Upon the assembling of the force, you will proceed without delay to San Antonio, and report to the undersigned when you arrive in the vicinity of the city.

[signed] THOS. J. DEVINE,
SAM A. MAVERICK,
P. N. LUCKETT,

Commissioners of Committee of Public Safety

CORRESPONDENCE WITH COL. WAITE,

AND

LISTS OF VOLUNTEERS SENT TO VARIOUS POSTS.

(COPY.) SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 22, 1861.

COL. C. A. WAITE: *Sir*—Your communication of the 20th instant, making a requisition on us for one hundred wagons and six hundred mules, has been duly considered, and the necessary orders will [be] issued to carry out the requisition.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

Commissioners, (Signed) } P. N. LUCKETT,
THOS. J. DEVINE,
S. A. MAVERICK.

[COPY.]

SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 25, 1861.

COL. C. A. WAITE: *Sir*—We have just learned that on Saturday Captain John H. King, of the Infantry, enlisted a man in his Company. If such is the case, we demand that he be immediately discharged; and that no further enlistments take place.

Respectfully, your ob't servants,

(Signed)

THOS. J. DEVINE,

S. A. MAVERICK,

P. N. LUCKETT,

Commissioners on behalf of the Committee of Public Safety.

HEADQUARTERS, DEPT. OF TEXAS,

San Antonio, Feb. 26, 1861. }

To Messrs. THOS. J. DEVINE, S. A. MAVERICK, and P. N. LUCKETT, Commissioners, &c..

Gentlemen—In answer to your letter of the 25th inst., I have to say that I have directed Captain King to discharge, immediately, the man he enlisted.

I shall take measures to prevent the enlistment, in future, of any citizen of Texas.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

C. A. WAITE,

Bt. Colonel U. S. A., Comd'g the Dept.

HEADQUARTERS, DEPT. OF TEXAS, }

San Antonio, Feb. 21, 1861. }

Gentlemen: I have been informed by Capt. Reynolds, Assistant Quartermaster, that the funds placed in his hands, pertaining to the Quartermaster's department, and for which he is personally accountable to the Treasury, have been seized by an armed body of Texans, and are no longer in his possession.

The Commissioners on the part of the State of Texas "formally and solemnly agreed with Brevet Major-General David E. Twiggs, United States Army, commanding the Department of Texas," that "the necessary *means* for regular and comfortable movement, provisions, tents, &c., &c., and transportation, shall be allowed the troops; and that the public *property* at the various posts, other than that above recited," shall be turned over to agents, &c. The words "public property" do not include *money*—and certainly not money in the hands of disbursing offi-

cers, who are personally accountable for it to the Treasury of the United States. Their bondsmen, their private property, and their commissions, are pledged to their government for the faithful disbursement of the funds entrusted to them.

Believing that a proper construction of the agreement referred to will not authorize the retention of the funds lately in the possession of Capt. Reynolds, and seized *prior* to the agreement between the Commissioners and General Twiggs, I have to require that they may be returned to him immediately.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

[Signed] C. A. WAITE,
Colonel U. S. Army, Comd'g Dept.

To Messrs. Thos. J. Devine, P. N. Lockett. S. A. Maverick,
Commissioners on behalf of Committee of Public Safety.

HEADQUARTERS, DEPT. OF TEXAS, } Official Copy.
San Antonio, March 5, 1861.

U. A. NICHOLS,
Assistant Adj't General.

SAN ANTONIO, February 22d, 1861.

To COL. C. A. WAITE, United States Army, Commanding
Department of Texas.

SIR:—We are in receipt of your communication of the 21st inst., in which you state that “the funds placed in the hands of Capt. Reynolds, Asst. Quartermaster, and pertaining to his Department, have been seized by an armed body of Texans, and are no longer in his possession.” You likewise state that “the commissioners formally and solemnly agreed with Br’t Maj. Genl. David E. Twiggs, commanding the Department of Texas, that the necessary means for regular and comfortable movement, provisions, tents, &c., and transportation shall be allowed the troops, and that the public property at the various posts other than that above recited shall be turned over to agents, &c. You further state “the words public property do not include money, and certainly not money in the hands of disbursing officers, &c.” You likewise state that a proper construction of the agreement referred to, will not authorize the retention of the funds, lately in the possession of Capt. Reynolds, and seized prior to the agreement between the commissioners and Gen. Twiggs, and you (I) have to require that they may be returned to him immediately.” In reply to that portion of your commu-

nication referring to our agreement with Gen. Twiggs for the comfortable movement of the troops, &c., we have to remark that our actions with reference to the movement of the troops will attest our willingness to perform our part of the agreement, and we are now, as we have been heretofore, ready and willing to carry it out, according to the letter and the spirit of the agreement. With reference to that portion of your communication relating to the words "public property not including money, &c.," we have to say that if the word money was not used in our last communication to Gen. Twiggs, it was simply owing to the fact, that our communication of a previous date, as well as our original demand on Gen. Twiggs, contained that word and its equivalents; that communication in which we agreed to the terms of the note of the 18th inst., in which Gen. Twiggs claimed the retention of two Batteries of Light Artillery, refers to our previous communications, in which we claimed all public property, and the reason is apparent, we claim no interest in or desire to meddle with, private property, but we do now, as we have heretofore done, claim, as public property, all money belonging to, or held for the benefit of the Federal Government; again, if it were necessary to show that nothing was withdrawn by the undersigned from their original and repeated demands, or understood to have been withdrawn on our part by General Twiggs, it will be found in the demands made by that officer and several others for transportation, &c., and freely furnished by the undersigned although no reference is made in express terms to this obligation in any of the notes between Gen. Twiggs, and the undersigned, and the reference is only found in our communication of the 14th inst., to the military commission. We might still further add that the military commission as well as Gen. Twiggs, repeatedly disclaimed any right on the part of the officer in command to control disbursing officers in their disposition of the public funds.— If then Gen. Twiggs has acted upon portions of our answer of the 14th inst, although such portions were not set out in our reply of the 18th, it shows that he understood the referring to that communication was a substantial embodiment of its terms, in the communication in which we referred to it. A consideration of these facts will show the necessity for a complete understanding of all matters connected with or operating in any manner upon the question of our right to obtain possession of, or control the funds of the Federal Government in Texas, such funds being subject however to the payment of legitimate claims due either to soldiers or citizens. For this purpose the undersigned submit the following questions to be answered by the

various disbursing officers, or heads of Departments and certified to respectively by them on honor. Question

1st. Please state what amount of funds in specie, coin, drafts, or otherwise were in your custody, or under your control for purposes connected with your department, or the performance of your official duties, on the 8th day of February, 1861.

Question 2nd. Please state what portion of that amount has been disbursed or changed from its original condition between that day and the time of answering this question, and how or where was this disbursement or change made.

Question 3rd. Please state what amount of indebtedness exists against your department at the time of answering this question, and the persons claiming the same, as nearly as it is in your power to do.

Question 4th. Please state what amount in specie or coin, has come into your possession since the 8th of February, 1861, and what amount has been placed to your credit, or at your disposal for purposes connected with your department, in other cities of the Union since the 8th of February, 1861.

Question 5th. Please state the amount of funds connected with your department, on hand, in specie, coin, drafts, or other evidences of money, or credit, and please state the amounts of the respective credits in this city and with whom, as likewise in other cities of the Union. It is hoped that the preceeding five questions will be submitted to the various disbursing officers residing in this city, and an answer is required within the next 18 hours.

The commissioners do not desire, on the contrary it is their determination that nothing shall be done, by or through their agency, that is likely to cause unpleasant consequences—our instructions and sense of duty, however, alike demand that all measures proper and necessary for the securing the public funds for the benefit of the State of Texas shall be attempted, and if possible, carried to a successful termination.

We remain very respectfully, your ob't serv'ts,
[Signed.]

THOS. J. DEVINE,
S. A. MAVERICK,
P. N. LUCKETT,

Commissioners on behalf of Com. of Public Safety.

HEADQUARTERS, DEPT. OF TEXAS, }
 SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 25th, 1861. }

To Messrs. THOS. J. DEVINE, P. N. LUCKETT, S. A. MAVERICK, Commissioners, &c., &c., San Antonio.

GENTLEMEN:—I have already acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 22d inst., and the pressure of my public duties must be my apology for not answering it at an earlier date.

In regard to the five questions proposed in your communication, and your request that the "various disbursing officers, or heads of departments, be required to furnish you with answers "certified to" by them "on honor," I have to state, that I have no power to compel a compliance with your wishes. An order of that kind would be illegal, and they would not be bound to obey it. As regards myself, if I were to issue an order that would endanger the public funds, or cause a disposition of them not sanctioned by law, I should place my commission in jeopardy, and render myself liable for the amounts involved. In relation to the payment of the claims against the United States, I would remark that the disbursing officers by whom the debts were contracted, are the proper persons to pay them, as they alone, can know the amounts actually due.

I will here repeat, what I have more fully stated in a former communication, that I cannot recognize the right of Texas to claim any portion of the funds in the hands of the disbursing officers. In this view of the case, I am confirmed by the most positive assurance of General Twiggs, that he has not, at any time, or in any way, consented to the transfer of the public funds to the State of Texas.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

C. A. WAITE,

Col. U. S. A., Comd'g the Dept.

HEADQUARTERS DEPT., TEXAS, }
 San Antonio, March 2d, 1861. }

To Messrs. T. J. DEVINE, P. N. LUCKETT, S. A. MAVERICK, Commissioners on behalf of Committee of Public Safety, San Antonio.

GENTLEMEN:—I here repeat in writing the substance of the remarks made verbally to you yesterday, with respect to the funds on hand, the existing debts of the U. S. Quartermaster's

Dept., and those which may accrue during the stay of the United States troops within the limits of the State of Texas.

That I will exert the full extent of my authority to cause to be paid to the citizens of Texas, all just demands they may hold against the United States pertaining to the Quartermaster's Department, or that may hereafter be contracted by said Department, so far as the funds on hand will permit; and, further, that, it having been ascertained, that the available funds on hand are not sufficient to liquidate the present outstanding demands, I will cause an estimate to be made for such further sums as may be deemed sufficient—it being understood and agreed to by said commissioners, that such sums as may be necessary for the hire of teamsters, lighters, the purchase and delivery of forage, fuel and other supplies—and to meet all the expenditures necessary for a "regular and comfortable movement" of the troops on their march from their present stations to the coast, and to enable them to embark, shall be retained and held subject to such expenditures.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

C. A. WAITE,

Colonel Com. Dept., Texas.

Colonel U. S. A., Com. Dept.

Approved by the undersigned Commissioners on behalf of committee of Public Safety.

THOS. J. DEVINE,
S. A. MAVERICK.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March d, 1861

We the commissioners, on behalf of the committee of Public Safety, will place at the disposal of the commanding officer of the troops in Texas, such means of transportation as are at our command, to be used by said troops in transporting their baggage, provisions, forage and other supplies, to such points on the coast as have been selected for embarkation.

THOS. J. DEVINE,
S. A. MAVERICK,
P. N. LUCKETT,

Commissioners on behalf of Com. of Public Safety.

[CIRCULAR.]
HEADQUARTERS, DEPT. OF TEXAS, }
SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 25th, 1861. }

SIR:—As some of the companies in the department have already evacuated their posts, deeming the requirements of General orders No. 5, immediate, the Department commander calls the attention of Post commanders to the condition as therein expressed, viz.: “As soon as the necessary preparations can be made,” the “necessary preparations” will be made at these Headquarters, and no troops will be put in motion until orders for such purpose shall be issued from the Department.

Should, however, any of the companies within this command have left their stations, and be found, on receipt of these instructions, on the march for the coast, they will not consider the above requirements as operative upon them, but will continue their line of march.

I am sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

U. A. NICHOLS,

Assistant Adj't General.

Copy of circular addressed to post commanders. For the State Commissioners, &c., San Antonio, Texas.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS, }
San Antonio, March 2nd, 1861. }

To COL. C. A. WAITE, U. S. ARMY,

Commanding Dept. of Texas :

SIR:—We are credibly informed that after the departure of Capt. Maclin's company from Camp Verde, the soldiers of company “A” 1st Infantry, burned up a chest of saddler's tools belonging to the Federal government, left by Capt. Brackett to be placed in the Quartermaster's store. Five days after, on the night of the return of that company to Camp Verde, the men broke into the hospital, and after consuming the liquor, destroyed all they could not conveniently appropriate to their own use; the night after, they broke into the carpenters shop, and destroyed everything that was not appropriated by them to their own use.

We desire to call your attention to this transaction, as it is not in the spirit or according to the letter of the agreement between Gen. Twiggs and the undersigned. We have to request

that this company be removed as soon as possible from Camp Verde. The officers and men of company "A," will be held liable for any destruction of property or other outrage which they may fail to prevent or be guilty of.

We remain,

Respectfully, &c, &c.

THOS. J. DEVINE,

S. A. MAVERICK.

P. N. LUCKETT.

Commissions on behalf of the committee of Public Safety.

HEAD QUARTERS, SAN ANTONIO, }
TEXAS, March 2nd, 1861. }

TO THE COMMISSIONERS:

Sirs :—I have the honor to report, that,

1. Lieut. S. W. McCallister, of Capt. Jordon's company, with one sergeant, one corporal and eighteen privates are *en route* for Fort Davis.

2. Sergeant C. Denman, of Capt. Teel's company, with one corporal and fifteen privates are *en route* for Camp Stockton.

3. Lieut. J. C. Moody, of Capt. Teel's company, with one corporal and fifteen privates, are *en route* for Fort Lancaster.

4. Sergeant T. L. Wilson. of Capt. Teel's company, with one corporal and fifteen privates are *en route* for Camp Hudson.

5. Lieut. B. E. Benton of Seguin, has orders to repair immediately to Fort Mason, with 20 mounted men.

6. Lieut. James Paul of Castroville, has orders to repair immediately to Camp Verde, with 25 mounted men.

7. Lieut. W. Adams of Uvalde, has orders to repair immediately to Fort Inge and Camp Wood ; 10 mounted men at the former and 25 mounted men at the latter place, in all 35 men.

8. Capt. T. T. Teel and Lieut. Bennett, are awaiting orders with fifteen privates each, to garrison Fort Duncan and Fort Clarke.

9. Lieut. Benton, Lieut. Paul and Lieut. Adams furnish their respective detachments with arms and ammunition; also, horses.

10. If it be deemed advisable, to muster the detachments of Lieut. Benton, Paul and Adams, I can repair to their stations,

and do it. Col. McCulloch, did not deem it necessary that they should report at these head-quarters, for that purpose.

I am Sirs,

Respectfully, &c.

W. T. MECHLING,

Captain and Ass't Adj't Gen.

TO HON. T. J. DEVINE, S. A. MAVERICK, N. P. LUCKETT,

Commissioners.

HEAD QUARTERS, SAN ANTONIO, }
TEXAS, March 1st, 1861. }

TO THE HON. COMMISSIONERS:

Sirs:—I have the honor to report, that I mustered and inspected the several detachments of State troops who are to occupy Forts Davis and Lancaster, Camps Stockton and Hudson, and report them encamped about eight miles west of this city, ready to march at a moments notice.

Enclosed in a copy of the order assigning them to their posts and order of march.

I am, Sirs,

Very respectfully,

Your ob't servant,

W. T. MECHLING.

Captain and Ass't Adj't Gen.

TO HON. T. J. DEVINE, P. N. LUCKETT, S. A. MAVERICK,

Commissioners.

ANSWERS OF CAPT. BLAIR AND MAJ. MACLIN.

MEMORANDUM of Subsistence, Funds and Liabilities in the Office, and under the control of the Commissary of Subsistence:

FUNDS.

On deposit in New-Orleans,	\$ 2,943 00
On hand in coin,	4,633 47
Total,	<u>\$ 7,576 47</u>

LIABILITIES.

For Flour delivered, and in course of delivery, at various posts,	\$ 5,604 20
To fill requisitions for current expenditures at the various posts,	8,498 69

Total, 14,102 89

The above embraces the whole of the public funds under my control, of all kinds and descriptions, and all evidences thereof.

W. B. BLAIR, Capt. C. S.

Sau Antonio, Feb. 2S, 1861.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, Feb. 28, 1861.

To the Commissioners :

GENTLEMEN—In answer to your demand, to be informed of the amount of public money received and expended by me since the 31st day of October, 1860, as well as the amount now on hand and on deposit to my credit, I remark : That on the 20th of January, 1861, deposited to my credit in the Treasury, New Orleans,

\$ 25,000 00

On the 22d February, in the Treasury, N. Orleans,

50,000 00

Deposited to my credit in the Treasury, New York, on the 1st February, 1861,

5,000 00

Making total to my credit since the 31st day of October, 1860,

\$ 80,000 00

Since the date of the above deposits, I have expended in paying the public dues from the deposits in New Orleans,

\$ 36,649 66

Expended from the deposit in New York,

3,877 50

Total expended from the above deposits,

\$ 40,527 16

Leaving balance to be accounted for, \$39,472 84—
which will be explained as follows, viz :

Draft drawn by me in favor of Lt. Thos. M. Jones, U. S. A., on deposit in New Orleans, and now en route to this place,

\$30,000 00

Balance in Treasury New Orleans,

8,550 34

Balance in Treasury New York,

1,122 50

Total amount on hand, on deposit, and en route to this place,

\$39,472 84

It is impossible for me to say with a positive certainty what

amount it will require to pay the troops (for whom the estimate upon which the above funds were furnished,) to the present date, But I am pretty certain that sixteen thousand dollars will be sufficient.

Please allow me to say that there may be some errors in this hasty report, but I feel well assured that the errors are slight.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

SACKFIELD MACLIN,

Late Paymaster U. S. Army.

To T. J. DEVINE, S. A. MAVERICK, P. N. LUCKETT, Commissioners.

Report }
No. 2. }

GENERAL ROGERS'S MISSION.

COMMITTEE ROOM, }
March 7th, 1861. }

To THE HON. O. M. ROBERTS,

President of the Convention :

The committee on Public Safety, beg leave to report through you, to the Convention, that on the 14th day of February, they were in session at the city of Galveston, and at that time they felt the great necessity of having more arms than were to be found in the State, and the Hon. Geo. Williamson, Commissioner from Louisiana to Texas, being then in that city, they caused the chairman of the committee to address to him a communication, which with the answer thereto, is herewith submitted :

GALVESTON, Texas, }
February 14th, 1861. }

To GEO. WILLIAMSON,

Commissioner from Louisiana to the State of Texas :

DEAR SIR :—The committee on Public Safety, regret to have

to make known to your State, through yourself, the unfortunate condition of Texas as to arms for her people. Should coercion be the policy of the incoming administration at Washington, we hope to be able to bring into the field as many strong arms and brave hearts as our southern sisters, but in this crisis, we must ask them to lend us whatever spare arms they may have. The committee beg to know of you what assurances you can give to Texas in behalf of your gallant State on this subject. Especially, sir, would we ask of you, your individual efforts in our behalf, to secure for us the two pieces of ordnance, well known in the history of Texas as the "Twin Sisters." We are informed that they are now in the hands of the State of Louisiana, having been lately taken from the Federal Government.

In conclusion, sir, allow me in behalf of the committee, to extend to you the highest regards of each member for yourself personally, and their best wishes for your welfare and happiness and that of your people.

I have the honor to be very respectfully, your ob'd't, serv't,

J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety.

GALVESTON, February 17th, 1861.

HON. J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of the Committee of Public Safety.

DEAR SIR:—In reply to your note of this date, I beg leave to state, that owing to the timely and patriotic action of the Governor in seizing the United States forts and arsenals in Louisiana, the State is abundantly provided with arms. It is needless for me to assure you that the State I have the honor to represent as Commissioner, feels the liveliest interest in everything that pertains to the safety and protection of Texas. Relying upon this feeling, and knowing personally the Governor, I can assure you that he will do all in his power to supply the want of arms you say now exists in Texas. Her gallant sons who are so eager to again recover her independence should have the means to accomplish their desire. I shall use every effort in my power to accomplish your wishes, both in regard to the arms and to the historic "Twin Sisters."

Permit me to suggest to your committee the propriety of sending a commissioner to the State of Louisiana to negotiate for a loan of arms and munitions of war, vested with full authority

to receipt for the same in the name of the State of Texas. I shall heartily co-operate with him.

I beg leave to tender my thanks to yourself and the committee for the courtesies extended to me during my agreeable visit to your State.

With assurances of my kindest regard and respect, I have the honor to be,

Your ob'dt, serv't,

GEO. WILLIAMSON,

Commissioner of the State of Louisiana.

They further report that from the tenor of said letters in answer to the communication from the committee, they were encouraged to make the effort to obtain some of the arms with which the State of Louisiana was so abundantly supplied. They accordingly issued to James H. Rogers, one of this committee, a commission to proceed to accomplish that object ; which commission together with his instructions as to the disposition of said arms, are herewith submitted :

“COMMISSION.”

COMMITTEE ROOM, }
Galveston, Texas, February 20th, 1861. }

TO GEN. JAMES H. ROGERS :

SIR :—You are hereby commissioned as a special officer to proceed at once to the city of Baton Rouge, in the State of Louisiana, and there confer with the Governor of said State, or other legally constituted authority, for the purpose of procuring therefrom as many arms as you can obtain for the use and benefit of the people of Texas, and in the event of your failing to obtain the same, or a sufficient number thereof from said State to answer the present urgent demand therefor in Texas ; you shall, if in your judgment it be right and proper to do so, proceed at once to the State of Alabama on a like mission.

[Signed,]

JOHN C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of the committee on Public Safety.

[Attest,]

R. T. BROWNRIGG,

Secretary to the Committee.

“INSTRUCTIONS.”

Resolved, That the Commissioner appointed to visit the State of Louisiana for the purpose of procuring arms for the use of the State, be instructed to dispose of the same in the following manner, viz :

One half of the arms to be obtained by him shall be shipped to J. M. & J. C. Murphy, Jefferson, Marion county Texas, subject to the order of the Convention, and the other half to E. B. Nichols & Co., Galveston, Texas, subject to same order.

A few days after the departure of said Commissioner, he returned to this committee the following encouraging communication :

NEW ORLEANS, February 23rd, 1861.

HON. JOHN C. ROBERTSON,
Galveston, Texas :

MY DEAR SIR:—I arrived here safe yesterday morning, met that prince of gentlemen, Col. Williamson, and have conferred with him fully on the object of my mission. He had just returned from a visit to the Governor at Baton Rouge, whither he went as our friend, on the subject of arms.

He gave me the kindest assurances of the friendly feelings of the Governor and of the people of Louisiana to our cause, and introduced me to Gen. Bragg, who assures me of the loan of 5,000 stand of arms, and gives me letters to the Governor, stating the ability of Louisiana to spare so many—2,000 percussion and 3,000 flint and steel. I have seen the arms : they are good and in prime order, and I shall receive them, believing it to be for the interest of Texas.

Col. Williamson says he has procured the Legislature of this State to dress up and remount the “Twin Sisters,” and has their assurance that they will then be presented to Texas by Louisiana.

Gen. Bragg says he has assurances from U. S. Officers in Texas, that if they are properly treated, they will come into the Texas service, and strongly recommends mildness and courtesy towards them, that such a course will bring them to us and make them a breastwork for our defence.

Allow me to recommend, respectfully, the views of General Bragg on this subject as being those of wisdom and prudence, and to beg that they may be adopted.

I shall leave this evening for Baton Rouge, and will get back to Austin as soon as I can.

Once more,—mildness and peace are the true policy for Texas. Give the officers and soldiers a chance, and all will be well. For God's sake and the interest of Texas, avoid harshness and blood—the latter is ruin, the former, prosperity and safety.

In much haste, very respectfully,

JAMES H. ROGERS.

The committee have the pleasure to announce to the Convention that said Commissioner has returned from his mission, and submitted to the committee the following report and accompanying documents, all of which they respectfully submit to the Convention as a part of this report:

The committee further state that at the very earliest possible moment they will furnish further reports of their proceedings.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

JOHN C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety.

REPORT OF J. H. ROGERS

AND

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

AUSTIN, TEXAS, }
March 5th 1861. }

TO HON. J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of Committee of Public Safety :

SIR:—In obedience to instructions given me, and acting by authority of the Convention of the State of Texas, as Commissioner to the State of Louisiana, charged with the duty of procuring arms of that State, for the defense of Texas in case of invasion, I have the honor to report :

That on the 20th day of February, 1861, I left the city of Galveston, and on the 22nd reached the city of New Orleans, and entered immediately upon the discharge of said duty.

It affords me great pleasure to state to you, and through you

to the Convention, that owing to the kindly aid of the late Commissioner from the State of Louisiana to the State of Texas, Col. Geo. Williamson, and also that of Major Gen. Bragg, and the warm feeling of friendship entertained by the Governor of that State towards Texas, I had but little difficulty in the discharge of my mission.

On the 23rd day of February, I had the honor to address to His Excellency the Governor of the State of Louisiana, the communication hereto appended, (marked No. 1) and received from him promptly, an order for five thousand stand of arms, four thousand two hundred and fifty flint and steel and seven hundred and fifty percussion muskets.

Whilst this order was being filled, the news of the capture of the arms and munitions of war at San Antonio, and the subsequent agreement between our Commissioner at that point, and Brevet Maj. Gen. Twiggs, for the withdrawal of the Federal troops from Texas, and the surrender of the arms at the various posts in Texas, was received by Gov. Moore, who immediately addressed me the appended note, (marked No. 2) limiting the original order to one thousand stand of muskets, with assurance that should necessity require it, this loan should be increased.

I would further report, that on the 26th day of February, I received by order of the Governor, the said arms. In obedience to your instructions, I immediately had shipped, five hundred stand to Messrs. J. M. & J. C. Murphy, Jefferson, Marion co., Texas, and five hundred stand to Messrs. E. B. Nichols & Co., Galveston, where they now are, subject to the order of the Convention. It was impossible to procure either cartridge boxes or ammunition, as the State of Louisiana was not sufficiently provided to extend the loan. Failing in this, and deeming it necessary to ascertain where the State of Texas could most speedily supply herself, I instituted inquiry in the city of New Orleans, and am able to furnish the committee with satisfactory information upon that point, by appending statement marked. "A."

The muskets I receipted for in the name of the State of Texas, and have pledged the faith of the State for their return, or payment at their appraised value. I have the pleasure to inform you, that through the agency of Col. Williamson, the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, has ordered the "Twin Sisters," the San Jacinto thunderers, to be remounted in fine style, and presented by the State of Louisiana to the State of Texas, which I am assured will shortly be done. I feel confident that this delicate demonstration of regard for our State, will be duly appreciated

by yourself and the gallant people of Texas, whose interests you represent.

Having been instructed to make application to the State of Alabama for a similar loan of arms, &c., whilst in New Orleans, I telegraphed our Delegates at Montgomery, enquiring as to the chance of success in that quarter, and received from the Hon. W. B. Ochiltree, the following reply :

“MONTGOMERY, Feb. 22nd, 1861.

GEN. J. H. ROGERS,

Alabama having to support Florida, can spare no arms to Texas for the present.

W. B. OCHILTREE.”

I therefore did not prosecute that branch of my mission further, deeming it unnecessary to do so. An invoice of ordnance and ordnance stores, receipted for by me, I herewith transmit to you, (marked “B”) together with the other documents referred to for your inspection. I cannot close this report without expressing my heartfelt gratitude, as a citizen of Texas, to his Excellency Gov. Thos. O. Moore, to Gen Bragg and to Col. Geo. Williamson, for their generous kindness to me whilst acting as your agent. Trusting that I have satisfactorily discharged the duty imposed upon me,

I have the honor to remain,

Yours most respectfully,

JAMES H. ROGERS.

Commissioner.

(Communication No. 1)

NEW ORLEANS, }
February 23rd, 1861. }

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

Of the Sovereign State of Louisiana :

SIR :—I have been honored by the State of Texas with the performance of a duty alike responsible and delicate. Your Excellency has been notified that on the 1st day of February, A. D., 1861, the Ordinance ratifying and acceding to the articles of annexation, passed on the 4th day of July, 1845, were formally annulled by a Convention of the people of Texas, assembled at our Capital city, Austin. The Ordinance of Secession was submitted for ratification or rejection to the peo-

ple of the State, to be determined at the ballot-box, on this the 23rd day of this month.

Such has been the confidence of the Delegates in the action of the people, that although the Convention has taken a recess until the 2nd day of March next, active measures have been in the mean time taken, to provide against the threatened attempt at coercion. Entertaining a lingering hope that a returning sense of justice, would induce the dominant party of the old Union, to pursue such course, as would justify a continuance of that Union ; our people have permitted the day of results to dawn upon them unprepared to a great extent, for the collision that now seems inevitable. The determination of the people of Texas is fixed ! Whatever may be the consequences, Texas has thrown her influence, and will throw her sword into the scales, with her sister Southern States. The relations, both social and commercial, which have grown up and so closely entwine each, makes the interests, and future destiny of Texas and Louisiana the same. The idea of a separate Republic has never been seriously entertained by the people of Texas.

The enemies of secession, have attempted to embarrass immediate action, by intimating such a course. I beg to assure you, as the recent action of our Convention, in sending Delegates to the Montgomery Convention indicates, that Texas will link her destinies with the fortunes of her sister cotton and sugar growing States, and the banner which waves over their patriotic sons, in peace or war, will float over the undaunted sons of the Lone Star State.

The mansion and cottage hearth-stone, shall be made desolate and the west bank of Red River become a frontier, before a hostile Federal troops, will from her direction, ever place foot upon the soil of Louisiana.

Circumstances require that Texas should appeal to Louisiana for arms in this emergency, and I have the honor to be commissioned for this purpose. I am prepared to guarantee to your Excellency their proper use, and unless lost in glorious battle for freedom and equal rights, their safe return.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully, your ob't servant.

JAMES H. ROGERS.

(Communication No. 2.)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, BATON ROUGE, }
LA. February 25th, 1861. }

TO GEN. JAS. H. ROGERS,

Agent for the State of Texas.

SIR:—In consequence of the news this day received of the withdrawal of Gen. Twiggs and his command from Texas, and of the States' thus getting possession of large quantities of military munitions, I presume there no longer exists the want of arms which you were sent here to procure. But as the arms, &c., surrendered by the retiring corps of U. S. troops, are in western Texas, leaving eastern Texas comparatively destitute, I have ordered one thousand stand of muskets to be issued, for the purpose of being sent to Jefferson for distribution in that portion of the State.

Should my inference from the reported retiring of Gen. Twiggs and command prove erroneous, I shall respond to a renewal of your call for a loan of arms, by promptly shipping such as we may then be able to spare.

Fully approving the active preparation made by the authorities of Texas for her defense, and desirous of aiding them in every proper way, I remain,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. O. MOORE,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.

(Document "A.")

STATEMENT from P. Rotchford, Agent for the DuPont's Powder.

United States cannon powder,	-	-	\$6
100 keg rifle,	-	-	6
500 " musket,	-	-	6

At the powder magazine.

Common cannon powder is only \$5 per keg, for blasting and for saluting purposes.

It will be necessary to give some timely notice in order to have any quantity of powder. We have also some rifle powder at \$5, which is considered good, but only one or two hundred kegs, it would no doubt do for cannon as it is strong.

P. ROTCHFORD, 49 Union St.

(Document No. 3.)

INVOICE of ordnance, and ordnance stores, turned over by H. Oladowski, commanding Baton Rouge Arsenal, to James H. Rogers, Agent of the State of Texas, in obedience to order of Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the State of Louisiana army :

1000 Muskets, altered to percussion model, 1822.		
1000 Screwdrivers for percussion arms.		
1000 Cones,	"	"
1000 Wipers for muskets,	"	"
100 Ball screws,	"	"
100 Screw vices,	"	"
50 Arm chests.		

I certify that the above is a correct invoice of ordnance and ordnance stores, turned over by me, this 26th day of February, 1861, to James H. Rogers.

H. OLADOWSKI.
Commanding Arsenal.

Report }
No. 3. }

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

ON

PUBLIC SAFETY.

COMMITTEE ROOM, March 18th, 1861.

To THE HON. O. M. ROBERTS,

President of the Convention.

The undersigned is instructed by the Committee on Public Safety, to report through you to the Convention, that, believing it to be among their first duties to secure to the State of Texas all the arms and munitions of war in the hands of the United States troops, within the State, and having appointed Col. Ben

McCulloch to the command of the post at San Antonio and other posts in that quarter, Col. Henry McCulloch for the North West frontier, with authority to protect the frontier from hostile invasion, and having also appointed Col. John S. Ford to Brazos Santiago, Brownsville and other posts on the Rio Grande, they found it was absolutely necessary to provide means for transportation and subsistence of the troops, especially for those under the command of Col. John S. Ford, as they had to be transported across the Gulf to the mouth of the Rio Grande. The propriety of sending Col. Ford's command by water, will be apparent, when it is considered how great the distance is by land, and the great difficulty of procuring provisions through the country. Especially will it be apparent, when it is seen by the report of Gen. E. B. Nichols, that, had the command been delayed a few hours later they would most probably have lost all the valuable arms and munitions at Brazos Santiago. It will be seen that Capt. Hill, U. S. Officer, had ordered every thing at that point to be destroyed.

The committee having set on foot the enterprizes alluded to, believed that it would be ruinous to the State to fail for the want of anything in their power to furnish. The gallant and brave volunteers had nobly responded to the call of their respective Commanders, money alone was now necessary to proceed to accomplish the objects of the mission. The Convention, by an ordinance, passed during the first sitting, authorized the President of the Convention to raise one hundred thousand dollars and pledge the faith of the State for the payment of the same, and to disburse the same by order of the Committee of Public Safety, whenever said President should be notified that the same was necessary for the defense or safety of the State, by said Committee. The Committee accordingly, on the 4th February, 1861, notified the President of the Convention of that fact; to which he promptly responded by appointing Gen. E. B. Nichols, commissioner, for the purpose of raising funds, not to exceed ninety-five thousand dollars. The Committee, at the same time, appointed Gen. E. B. Nichols, financial agent in behalf of the State, to disburse the money so raised by him under instructions and commission issued to him. All of which proceedings, by the President of the Convention and the Committee, will appear in document No. 1.:

TO THE HON. O. M. ROBERTS,

President of the Convention of the People of Texas :

You are hereby notified, that by a resolution of the committee of Public Safety, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars is necessary to be raised for the safety of the State, and to provide for the defence and welfare thereof.

Witness my hand, this 14th day of February, A. D., 1861.

[Signed]

JOHN C. ROBERTSON.

Chairman of Committee on Public Safety.

Whereupon the President issued to Gen. Nichols the following authority :

TO GEN. E. B. NICHOLS :

By virtue of the authority in me vested by the Convention of the people of Texas, assembled at Austin, on the 28th day of January, 1861, I, O. M. Roberts, President of said Convention, do hereby appoint you Commissioner on behalf of the people of Texas, to raise and procure for the State of Texas, a sum of money not to exceed the sum of ninety-five thousand dollars ; and you are hereby authorized, by virtue of the authority aforesaid, to pledge the faith of the State of Texas for the payment thereof ; and you are authorized to negotiate for the same on such terms as in your judgment are right and proper.

You are also required to disburse the sum or sums of money, you may thus raise or procure, according to the instructions you may receive from the committee on Public Safety.

Done at the city of Austin, this 4th day of February, A. D., 1861.

[Signed]

O. M. ROBERTS,

President of the Convention of the People of Texas.

TO E. B. NICHOLS,

SIR :—You are hereby appointed Financial Agent, with powers to disburse such sum or sums of money as you may raise or may come into your possession, for the benefit of the State of Texas ; and acting in said capacity of financial and disbursing agent for said State of Texas, you will be governed by the following special instructions :

I. Before entering upon the discharge of your duties, you are hereby required to enter into bond in the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, payable to the State of Texas, and conditioned that you will faithfully perform the duties entrusted

to you under this power.

II. You are hereby authorized to borrow the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, and to pledge for the repayment of the same, the faith of the State of Texas, and such other securities as may be placed in your possession, and for the purpose of accomplishing said loan, you are hereby fully authorized to negotiate for the same, upon such terms as in your judgment are right and proper.

III. You are further authorized to receive and receipt for in the name of the State of Texas, all sums of money, arms and munitions of war, army supplies and every species of property that may be surrendered to you within the limits of said State.

IV. You are further authorized to proceed to any point within or out of the State of Texas in order to effect said loan, and as soon as that is accomplished you are required to procure such vessels, as may be necessary, to transport three hundred men from Galveston or such other point as may be designated by Colonel John S. Ford, to "Brazos Santiago" or such other point as may be designated by said officer, and you are also required to procure at the same time, as soon as possible, sixty days supplies of rations for six hundred men, and such vessels and supplies you will place at the disposal of Col. John S. Ford, and you are also required to proceed to "Point Isabell" and the "Rio Grande," and take into your possession all such money or property as may be tendered to you by any person, and hold the same subject to the order of this Committee, except so far as you are hereby authorized to dispose of the same.

V. By requisition from Col. Ford, you are authorized to deliver to him such arms and munitions of war, and army supplies as he may demand, and you are further authorized to keep the remainder of such property of every kind as may come into your possession, at such place or places, as will insure its safe keeping, at your discretion, unless otherwise ordered by this Committee.

VI. You are required to confer with Col. Ford, touching the matters connected with your powers, and to afford him such assistance as you may be able to do, by furnishing to him such supplies as he may require, and in order more effectually to aid Col. Ford in his mission, you are authorized and required to confer with him as to the extent of your powers to aid him.

VII. You will report, as often as is convenient, to this Committee all things transacted by you, touching the powers herein granted.

VIII. You are required to keep a correct account of all your

proceedings in a well bound book, and to do so you are authorized to employ a secretary at such salary and upon such terms as you may think proper.

IX. You are also required to organize Quartermaster's, Commissary's, Ordnance, and Medical departments, in conjunction with Col. Ford, and in organizing the same you will be governed by the regulations of the army of the "United States of America."

X. You are also authorized to select such persons as you may think proper to aid you in accomplishing the successful result of your mission.

[Signed]

JOHN C. ROBERTSON,
Chairman of Com. Pub. Safety.

Attest:

R. T. BROWNRIGG,
Sec'y to Committee.

Gen. E. B. Nichols was also furnished with attested copies of the following documents, viz :

"The Joint Resolution of the State Legislature, giving its assent to, and approving of the Convention of the people of Texas."

The Ordinance to dissolve the Union heretofore existing between the State of Texas and the other States under the compact styled the "Constitution of the United States of America."

Gen. Houston's letter to the Committee of the Convention.

Resolution conferring authority on the Committee of Public Safety.

Resolution giving power to Committee to sit during recess.

Resolution authorizing the President to raise funds, &c.

On the 8th day of February, A. D., 1861, the following additional document was issued by the Committee to Gen. Nichols:

TO GEN. E. B. NICHOLS :

By virtue of the authority in me vested by the Convention of the people of Texas, assembled at Austin on the 28th day of January, A. D., 1861. I, O. M. Roberts, President of said Convention, do hereby appoint you Commissioner on behalf of the people of Texas, to raise and procure, for the State of Texas, five thousand dollars, in addition to that you are already author-

ized to raise, making in the whole, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, and you are hereby authorized to pledge the faith of the State of Texas, for the payment thereof.

And you are authorized to negotiate for the same on such terms as in your judgment are right and proper.

You are also required to disburse the sum or sums of money you may thus receive, and procure, according to the instructions you may receive from the Committee of "Public Safety."

Done at the city of Austin, this 8th day of February, A. D., 1861.

[Signed]

O. M. ROBERTS,

President of the Con., of the people of Texas.

By the instructions given to Gen. Nichols, and the appointment of Col. Ford, hereinafter shown, it will be seen that the Committee used every possible precaution to prevent the useless expenditure of money, and also to avoid, if possible, a conflict with the Federal troops. Whilst however, they were exceedingly cautious in their instructions and solicitous to avoid collision, yet it was not intended that the troops should leave with their arms and the munitions of war, only so much, as by the usages of war, they would not be dishonored if they departed peaceably. The Committee, however, determined, if they could not get the Federal property by stipulation, on honorable terms to both parties, to have it at *all hazards* and they so provided in all their military appointments. Gen. E. B. Nichols, immediately after his appointment, left Austin for New Orleans, to obtain the means, while Col. Ford, was marching and concentrating his forces at Galveston. Gen. Nichols had a Herculean task to perform, he had to provide means for sustaining a force of five hundred men, and to procure transportation for them and purchase the provisions for them, and transport these from New Orleans to Galveston. Gen. Nichols reached New Orleans about the 12th of February, and in an incredible short time he procured vessels for transportation, he purchased provisions for sustaining the troops, and returned to Galveston, embarked the troops and set sail for Bazos Santiago on the 20th day of February, 1861. Gen. Nichols, when in the city of New Orleans, negotiated a loan to the State from the Citizens Bank, of ten thousand dollars, and on his individual responsibility, he effected a loan to the State of Texas of ten thousand dollars. He purchased Quartermasters stores of W. H. Leitchford & Co., to the amount of \$1570, of James

Connelly & Co., \$2500. These two firms generously rely upon the faith of the State for their pay, and also, the Citizens Bank of Louisiana looks to the State for refunding the sum advanced. The remaining ten thousand, Gen. Nichols obtained upon his own credit.

It will be thus seen that Gen. Nichols pledged the faith of the State for the sum of twenty-four thousand and seventy dollars; an account current made by Gen. Nichols, of date the 18th Feb., 1861, is herewith submitted, (marked No. 2,) by which it will be seen that at that date, Gen. Nichols had in his hands, six thousand six hundred and thirty-nine dollars and forty cents; having paid to the committee the sum of ten thousand dollars; the whole amount in the hands of Gen. Nichols, including the amounts expended for stores &c., was \$17,430 60; the amount received by the Committee will be shown how disbursed hereafter.

The military district of country in which Col. John S. Ford was commissioned, was defined by beginning at a point on the Rio Grande, half way between Forts Duncan and McIntosh and include all Forts on the Rio Grande below said point, and the entire district of country between the Nueces and Rio Grande, and at right angles with the general course of said river to the point of beginning. Within this district, assigned to Col. Ford, there were, of the U. S. army, three companies of Cavalry, five companies of Infantry, and two companies of Artillery, in all, ten companies of well disciplined regulars; all of whom were along the line of the Rio Grande, and were known to be well supplied with means for prompt transportation, and could be concentrated at or near Brownsville. A list of posts in the department of Texas is herewith submitted (marked document No. 3.) The Committee being satisfied that at least six hundred volunteers were necessary for the expedition, authorized Col. Ford to call out that number, with discretionary powers to call for more should he deem it necessary. Besides the securing the public property on this line, Col Ford was authorized and required to protect that line against hostile invasion, and so garrison the military posts as to safely preserve the public property. The Committee executed to Col. John S. Ford, the following instructions and commission :

COLONEL FORD'S COMMISSION.

COMMITTEE ROOM, Feb. 5th, 1861.

TO COL. JOHN S. FORD :

Sir—You are hereby appointed Military Commander to proceed, at once, to the Rio Grande, for the purpose and objects

herein after explained, and you will be governed strictly by the following instructions :

1st. The object of your mission is a two-fold one. 1st. To use such means as will secure to the State of Texas, all arms and munitions of war, together with all property of every kind now retained by, and in the possession of the United States of America, at point Isabel, and at all points along the line of the "Rio Grande," and,

2nd. To use such means as will protect the "Rio Grande" frontier against hostile invasions.

In pursuance of these objects you are hereby instructed and authorized to call into service six hundred men, or less, if in your judgment a less number be sufficient. You will organize such men into companies of not more than one hundred, rank and file, and you will also at your discretion select such number of companies as you think best, and organize the same as a Cavalry corps, at such time and place as you may deem best.

At the earliest practicable time, you will proceed to "Brazos Santiago," "Point Isabel," or such other point as in your discretion is best, and there demand from parties in possession all public property, now claimed by the "United States of America," and consisting of arms and munitions of war, public buildings and army stores, for the State of Texas. It is of the first importance that this should be accomplished without hostile collisions with the United States authorities, and you are instructed to use every practicable means to accomplish it in a peaceable manner if it be possible so to do, without jeopardizing the services of your mission.

For every species of property, so procured, you will give a receipt, as the duly authorised agent of the State of Texas, provided E. B. Nichols, is not present, to perform that duty; if, however, he is there, it will be his duty to receipt for the same, by virtue of his authority; and, in such event, after the surrender of such property, you will instantly report the same to him, and afford him every facility in your power, to enable him to take charge of such property, and to preserve the same.

If E. B. Nichols should not be present when such property is surrendered, you will hold the same, subject to his order, or of this Committee. In any event, you will exert yourself to protect such property from injury or destruction.

In securing to the State of Texas, property claimed by the "United States" of America, at all points.

You will be strictly governed by the following instructions, given in relation to property claimed by the "United States of

America" at "Bazos Santiago" and "Point Isabel." In order to protect the Rio Grande frontier from hostile invasions, you will at all times enforce in your command, the strictest military discipline, and to effect this, you will be governed by the regulations of the Army of the United States of America" and articles of war of the same, as far as it is possible, to apply the same to your command, not only in regard to discipline, but to the mode and manner of the organization of your command, in every department.

You will strictly avoid injury or depreciation by your command, to, or upon the property of private persons, and you are enjoined not to permit injury to the citizens of the State of Texas.

You will endeavor to the extent of your power, to secure the good feeling of all the United States officers and men to our cause, and you are authorized to assure them that the State of Texas will use her influence to secure for them such rank in the army of the Southern Confederacy, or of the State of Texas, as they now hold.

The military district of country in which you will operate, will begin at a point on the "Rio Grande" half way between "Fort Duncan and McIntosh," and include all Forts on the "Rio Grande" below said point, and the entire district of country between the "Nueces and Rio Grande," and at right angles with the general course of said river at the point of beginning.

At military posts garrisoned by "United States" troops, (other than Point Isabel and Brazos Santiago,) you will first confer with the chief officers and obtain from them, if possible, assurances that no effort will be made by them to defeat the object of your mission, and if said assurance is given, you may stipulate with them that no attempt will be made by you for the surrender of such property, until the 2nd day of March, at which time you will demand it and secure it into your possession at all hazards. If, however, such assurance is not given to you, you will observe the strictest guard over such points, and the officers and men of the same, and upon any indication on their part to defeat the object of your mission, you will pursue such course as in your discretion, will render your success certain.

To repel hostile invasion of the "Rio Grande" frontier, you will be governed by instructions herein before given, and the exercise of your own discretion.

You will endeavor to hold friendly intercourse with the neighboring Mexican authorities, and assure them of our desire to cultivate with them the kindest feelings of amity.

For all necessary transportation, supplies of arms, munitions of war, and the support and maintenance of your army, you will draft upon E. B. Nichols, who has been authorized to supply the same, and is instructed to confer with you as to the extent to which supplies will be rendered.

You are required to report to the chairman of this committee as often as opportunity offers, and to obey such instructions as may hereafter be given to you by this committee, and should any emergency arise, not provided for in your instructions, you are authorized to act at your discretion in such manner as will not be incompatible with such instructions as you have received.

If any officer, non-commissioned, or private, should be guilty of disorderly conduct or intemperate so as to render him or them in your opinion, unfit or inefficient for the service, you are authorized and required to discharge such officer, non-commissioned officer or private, from the service.

You are authorized to receive into the service, under your command, all officers and soldiers, and officers now in the "United States" service, with assurances that all laudable efforts will be made by the people of Texas, to retain them in the State service, or the service of the Southern Confederacy, when formed.

If you find 600 men insufficient to accomplish the object of your mission, you are authorized to call out enough for the purpose, and report the same to the committee at once, and you are required to report a courier or express to this committee.

Should you deem it advisable to retain any portion, or all of the Federal Troops in your district in the temporary service of the State, you can do so ; in case any or all of them should express a desire to depart the country peaceably, then you will permit them to do so upon such terms as will not dishonor them and as will insure the public safety, and in such way as will insure safety to their persons and private property.

Col. John S. Ford was also commissioned as Colonel of Cavalry, under the resolution adopted by the committee on the 3rd day of February, 1861, commission dated accordingly—and furnished with duly authenticated copies of the following documents, viz :

The joint resolution of the State Legislature, approving of and giving its assent to the Convention of the people of Texas.

The Ordinance to dissolve the Union between the State of Texas and the other States under the compact entitled the "Constitution of the United states of America."

The letter of Governor Houston to the committee of the Convention.

The resolution of the Convention conferring power on the committee to make such appointments, and

The resolution authorizing the committee to sit during the recess of the Convention.

The Committee also received from Col. John S. Ford, the following communications which are also herewith submitted :

COMMUNICATION FROM COL. FORD.

BROWNSVILLE, Feb. 22nd, 1861.

COLONEL :

I have the honor to report, that a portion of the Rio Grande regiment, consisting of the companies of Capt. Edwards, Odlem, Redwood, Conner, Van Buren and Davis, in all, near 500 men, sailed from Galveston on the 19th, inst. On the 21st., we came to, off the bar of Brazos Santiago, and boarded by a pilot. He informed us Lieut. that Thompson was at the Brazos in command of a detachment of U. S. soldiers ; that he had two large pieces shotted, and pointed so as to command the roadstead, and that his intention was to fire upon us in the event we endeavored to enter the harbor.

According to orders, dispositions were made to place the Texas force in readiness to repel an attack. Myself, and Gen. E. B. Nichols, Commissioner of the State of Texas, went on shore, and had an interview with Lieut. Thompson. He, after some hesitation, agreed to remove his command, and allow us to take possession of the United States property on the Island, without resistance. The Texas troops were landed in good order and promptness, and were drawn up on the beach in order of battle.

A salute of thirty-three guns was fired, and the " Stars and Stripes " were lowered in respectful silence. The " Lone Star Flag " was hoisted, and cheered with enthusiasm, and was saluted by twenty-two guns.

Lieut. Thompson, withdrew his command. I am happy to state that no unpleasant remark dropped from either party during the affair, and a high toned courtesy seemed to prevail throughout.

The number and character of the pieces taken can not now be given in detail; yet, it may be safely asserted, that the State of Texas, has in her possession, a supply of siege guns and mortars amply sufficient to protect all her harbors.

After landing and storing the supplies from steamer Gen. Rusk, and the schooner Shark, I started for this point accompanied by Gen. Nichols and Gen. McLeod. We arrived to-day about noon. From all we can learn, it is probable we shall have no great trouble. We hope the affair can be adjusted satisfactorily by negotiation. If hostilities commence, it shall be the act of the United States officers.

Mr. Fenn, the P. M., here, received a letter recently from a Black Republican, expressing a determination on their part, to get possession of Pensacola, and to secure the free navigation of the Mississippi. We will investigate and report further on this matter.

By the Gen. Rusk, I shall report more fully.

I have the honor to be,

Your ob'dt serv't,

JOHN S. FORD,

Col. Com. Rio Grande Mil. District.

HON. J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of Com. on Public Safety.

BROWNSVILLE, March 6, 1861.

COL —I am in receipt of no communications from you, nor from any quarter, apprising me of the events transpiring at other points in the State.

The command at Brazos Santiago and the mounted troops reported, amount to a few more than one thousand men. Other companies are *en route* for this place, and the force will be adequate to the service required, and I hope soon to be able to dispense with a portion of it. Meantime I would suggest the propriety of raising companies to serve for a stated period in this district. The length of the line to be protected, the danger of forays from the Mexican side, the fact that seventeen or twenty companies of U. S. troops will leave Texas by way of the mouth of the Rio Grande, indicate in most unmistakable manner, the necessity of a respectable and well organized force on the lower Rio Grande. In the event Mr. Lincoln should adopt a coercive policy, Brazos Santiago and the mouth of the river would be points of attack. They are keys to the valley of the Rio Grande and they should be permanently fortified.

On the 3rd instant the "Daniel Webster" arrived off the bar of Brazos Santiago. She was boarded by Gen. Nichols, and her peaceable intentions ascertained. Maj. Porter, of the U. S. army, was on board of her, and has been sent to superintend the withdrawal of the Federal troops from the Rio Grande frontier and, probably, other portions of Texas. I accompanied him to this place. He expresses himself decidedly favorable to a peaceful solution of the present difficulties between the slaveholding States and the General Government. Under his present orders, he says, collision cannot occur, unless by the acts of the State troops. I understand him to be willing to observe the agreement made by Gen. Twiggs with the Texas Commissioners. He has directed Capt. Stoneman to remain at Fort Brown, receive the public property from U. S. officers, when they shall arrive, notify the commander of this District of his readiness to turn over the same to an authorized agent of the State of Texas, and when he shall have accomplished these objects, he is instructed to embark for the United States. Unless Mr. Lincoln shall countermand the order under which Maj. Porter is acting, all will be effected without disturbing the relations of peace which should exist between the Confederate and United States. Should he attempt coercion the U. S. troops concentrated on the Rio Grande would give great trouble. Under the agreement made at San Antonio there is no way to prevent the Federal troops forming a junction at Fort Brown or the mouth of the Rio Grande. They are moving out of the country, and will be awaiting transportation, as they will aver, and as they now honestly intend, but what would be the result should they be ordered to hold their positions upon the ground that the present Federal President does not approve the agreement made with Gen. Twiggs? It is for the Convention to judge whether this contingency is within the range of probability, and if so, to prepare to meet it.

I have strong hopes that all will go well and without bloodshed. I have used every effort to avert civil war, and shall feel to have done the country a service if, in the slightest degree, I have been instrumental in preserving peace.

Lt. Col. H. McLeod is still in command at Brazos Santiago. He has been very actively and assiduously employed in drilling the men and rendering the command efficient. He has erected temporary earth works, and placed heavy pieces at servicable points to protect our position on Brazos Island, and to defend the harbor and the roadstead. These works are not of a character to withstand an attack from a besieging force properly sup-

plied with siege guns, and making their approaches scientifically. As a strategic point, Brazos Island possesses importance, and should be made defensible by the erection of permanent works.

Considerable alarm exists among the Mexican population on this side the Rio Grande. It has been created by designing, unpatriotic men. I shall issue an address to them stating the object of our mission and hope to quiet their apprehensions.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN S. FORD,

Col. Commanding Rio Grande Mil. Dist.

Hon. J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman Committee Public Safety,

Austin, Texas.

BROWNSVILLE, March 7, 1861.

COL.—I have the honor to report operations since yesterday. I was to-day informed by Capt. Stoneman, that Ringgold Barracks and Fort McIntosh have been evacuated by the U. S. troops, I have given orders to Capt. Nolan of the Mounted Volunteers to proceed immediately to those points, and occupy them by detachments from his command, to see that the public property is not squandered, and to take care of the same.

Fort Duncan has also been evacuated, and the force which occupied it is *en route* for this place, and is expected to arrive to-morrow or the next day.

Yesterday evening I addressed a note to Capt. Stoneman, and received his reply to-day. Copies are herewith forwarded.

I hope there will be no difficulty in adjusting the remaining matters with the U. S. officers. It is anticipated that the last of the U. S. troops will embark by the 20th of this month.

I shall dispose the Texas troops at such points as may be conducive to health, and in a manner to admit of concentration at an early period.

I think the people of Texas can congratulate themselves upon the flattering prospect, that their separation from the government of the former United States will be made final without war. If it is a revolution, it is thus far a bloodless one, and challenges the world for a parallel.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN S. FORD,

Col. Commanding Rio Grande Mil. Dist.

Hon. J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman Committee Public Safety,

(COPY.)

BROWNSVILLE, March 6, 1861.

CAPT.—In our different conversations regarding the withdrawal of the U. S. troops from the territory of Texas, I understood you to say, that you were to remain at Fort Brown, receive such public property as should be left in accordance with the agreement between Gen. Twiggs and the Texas Commissioners, and turn over the same to the authorized agent of the State of Texas. Texas has a considerable force in the field—volunteers are naturally restless—and every day a large body of them remains within striking distance of the Federal troops, the danger of collision by the mere meeting of detachments is great. In order to obviate this I request you to state whether my understandings of your intentions is well founded, and whether it is intended to withdraw the U. S. troops from Texas as soon as practicable, and without attempting to hold any position upon the territory of Texas against her consent.

My object in asking an answer in writing is to lay the same before the Convention of the people of Texas, and to quiet the apprehensions of the public mind which has been excited by rumors of an impending civil war in this quarter.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN S. FORD,

Col. Commanding Rio Grande Mil. Dist.

CAPT. GEORGE STONEMAN,

2nd. Cavalry U. S. Army.

(COPY.)

FORT BROWN, TEXAS, March 7th, 1861.

COL. J. S. FORD,

Commanding Rio Grande District :

SIR—In reply to your communication of yesterday, I beg leave to state as follows :

It is the intention as well as desire of the Federal troops on the Rio Grande to leave the soil of Texas at the earliest period, and so soon as transportation by sea can be furnished by the Federal authorities for that purpose. While they will be ready and prompt to remove any obstacles which may be placed in their way to retard or prevent the execution of all proper and legal orders, it is the desire of the officers and men, to prevent any collision with the State forces of Texas, or any other persons

organized or unorganized. It is the intention to evacuate all points now in the possession of the Federal forces, so soon as circumstances will allow, after which they will be under your control to be occupied or not as you may see fit. Such public property as is not taken away by the troops, under the agreement made between the Commissioners of Texas and the Department Commander, will be turned over to yourself, or such other persons as may be properly designated, and this property will doubtless be delivered as soon as consistent.

Measures have been taken by the Staff Officer now here, acting under the instructions from the Headquarters of the U. S. army, to hasten the concentration of the troops at this point, for the purposes of embarkation, so soon as transportation can be furnished for that purpose.

I am very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE STONEMAN,

Capt. 2nd Cavalry U. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS, RIO GRANDE MIL. DIST., }
Brazos Santiago, March 13th, 1861. }

COL.—I have the honor to report that the U. S. troops are embarking in obedience to the order of Gen. Twiggs. The public property is being turned over to the State Commissioner.

I have discharged a part of the troops under my command, and for the present have in service from 700 to 800 men. We must not embroil ourselves with Mexico. To prevent that it is necessary to make a demonstration of force upon the Rio Grande. Accounts of Indian depredations are reaching me. It will be necessary to send mounted troops to defend exposed points and chastise marauders. I shall do all I can to protect this frontier and at the least possible expense.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN S. FORD,

Col. Commanding Rio Grande Mil. Dist.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE VALLEY OF THE RIO GRANDE.

The government of the United States was formed for certain purposes specified in the Constitution, and as the agent of the

sovereign States which are parties to the compact. This agent has failed to discharge the duties and exercise properly the powers thus delegated, and certain States have violated the Constitution by refusing to observe its stipulations and guarantees, and by nullifying a law of the General Government. A president has been elected in accordance with the forms of the Constitution and upon principles violative of its plain intent and spirit, and he and his party propose to administer the government upon those principles of centralism which are subversive of the rights of the people of fifteen of the States formerly composing a part of the Federal Union, and destructive to their equality as co-equals and co-sovereigns in the Confederacy. For these and many other reasons the State of Texas separated herself from the States styling themselves the United States of America, and resumed to herself the sovereignty, or the portion thereof, the exercise of which she delegated to the government of the United States by the Ordinance of Annexation, on the 4th day of July 1845. This act of separation or secession was made complete on the 2nd day of March 1861, and Texas is now a free, sovereign and independent power. She will, however, unite her destinies with the other seceding States, and become a party to the contemplated government they will organize, and is, no doubt, by this time a party to the Federal Provisional Government under the control of President Jefferson Davis. Under existing circumstances the Convention of the people of Texas which assembled at Austin, January 28th, 1861, made provisions for the change of government, and provided for calling troops into the field to take the place of those of the U. S. Army which it was presumed would be withdrawn from her territory, and which are now being withdrawn. Texas is desirous of maintaining peaceable relations with her former Confederate sisters. She is willing to make any honorable sacrifice to avert the horrors of a civil and fratricidal war. She designs to inaugurate a policy peaceful and unaggressive in its character, and to give no just cause of offence to any other State or government as long as she remains in control of her own affairs, and external relations. She is determined to give ample protection to all her citizens without distinction and regardless of nationality.

In accordance with these resolves and to carry into successful operation, measures so essential to the well being of society and good government, the undersigned has been placed in temporary command of the Military District of the Rio Grande. He is determined to give protection to person and property, to punish all offences against the same, if committed by any one under his

control, and to repel invasion, come from what quarter it may, if in his power so to do. All good citizens are requested to remain at home in pursuit of their peaceful vocations. Their rights, civil and religious, will be respected, their persons and property secured against molestation and danger. Order will be preserved, and everything possible will be done to restore tranquility and confidence to this frontier. The persons who have endeavored to sow the seeds of alarm and disquietude broad-cast among you, to persuade you, that the objects of the Texas troops are different from those above indicated, can not point to a single declaration or act to establish the truth of their assertions. They may be sincere, yet if their claims to patriotism and a desire to promote public good, are to be established upon their actions in this connection, they will be but badly sustained. If your rights should be jeopardized and your lives endangered by the presence of a foe, few of those busy-bodies will be found in the ranks of your defenders.

Listen not to their insidious slanders. Texas has noble ends in view. She is endeavoring to preserve her freedom inviolate and not to oppress her sons—to protect and not destroy, in short to do all, that a just and generous State should do to secure prosperity, happiness, and the blessings of peace to her citizens.

JOHN S. FORD,

Col. Commanding Rio Grande Military District.

BROWNSVILLE, March 6, 1861.

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, }
Feb. 25th, 1861. }

COLONEL,

I have the honor to report operations since the date of a previous communication.

The temper of the officer in command here, indicated a disposition to resist the surrender of the public property. He viewed the occupation of the Brazos as a hostile act—asserted his ability to dislodge our troops, and seriously entertained the idea of attempting its accomplishment. Everything was verging towards the initiation of war on his part. I am of opinion that the prudence and the influence of Capt. Stoneman and a few other army officers, prevented collision. The receipt of orders to-day, from San Antonio, has done much to shun the danger of civil war, yet, the chances of such a thing are not entirely removed, and I have abated no endeavor to place our

troops in a posture to defend their position, which is, in fact, the key to the lower Rio Grande.

Lieut. Col. McLeod, has been ordered to establish batteries to defend the harbor of Brazos Santiago, to bear upon the roadstead; and, in short, to repel attack from any quarter. A battery will be placed near the mouth of the Rio Grande, to command that point and the approaches to it.

The communications of the military with the coast are interrupted, and the points of embarkation are in our possession. They cannot leave the country without our consent, unless they drive us from our positions.

The Daniel Webster, is reported to have orders to communicate with the Gulf Squadron, and it is said a vessel of war will accompany her in. The corvette, St. Louis, has been mentioned as the probable one. If this be so the object may be to defend the embarkation of the U. S. troops, or to shell us out of Brazos Santiago.

I learned to-day from one of our spies, that tents and other public property, were being ostensibly sold to a merchant of this place. The sale is fictitious, and the intention is to smuggle the articles out as private property. I have taken steps to prevent the consummation of the scheme, and shall not respect the pretended sale.

An officer of the army tells me, there is no doubt of a desire on the part of Mr. Lincoln, to form a treaty of alliance—offensive and defensive—with Mexico, and to check the expansion of the South in that direction.

To-day I called upon Gen. Guadalupe Garcia, *Commandante* of the line of the Bravo, and assured him of the pacific intentions of the Southern Confederacy, of her ardent wish to cultivate peaceful relations with Mexico, and to avoid giving just cause of complaint for the non-observance of the usual courtesies which comity demands between sovereign powers. His answers were satisfactory, and gave assurances that trouble may not be apprehended from the authorities of the coterminous States of Mexico.

There are three or four of the U. S. army officers at this place, who contemplate resigning and taking service in the army of the Southern Confederacy. A great many of the men will not fight against the South, and I should not be surprised should a great many of them determine to enlist in the service of the State of Texas at an early period.

Everything possible is being done to organize the regular departments, to drill the troops and make them efficient. The

character of the men who have volunteered, is excellent, and Texas may well feel proud of such a corps.

I have under the circumstances of uncertainty by which I am surrounded, thought it necessary to send for more men. When the object of my mission shall have been accomplished, I shall disband the companies desiring to return home, and retain a sufficient number of men to guard the public property and defend the line of frontier in my charge.

I must not omit to mention, the kindly treatment I have received from the officers of the U. S. army here, and the entire absence of all feeling which would render our intercourse unpleasant. Many of them have joined me most cordially, in the effort to avert civil war.

I am under many obligations to Capt. Smith of the steamer Gen. Rusk, for efficient service promptly rendered during our passage. Col. Latham, and other citizens of Cameron county, have extended all the aid in their power to facilitate every requisite measure to ensure success.

Allow me to again repeat, that I shall do my utmost to effect everything without the employment of force, and shall be happy if any act of mine, shall be instrumental in warding off the horrors of a civil war. If such a calamity should be visited upon us, I am determined to let the responsibility of its inauguration rest upon others.

I have the honor to be,

Your ob't servant,

JOHN S. FORD,

Col. Com. Rio Grande [Mil. Dist.

HON. J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of Committee on Public Safety.

GALVESTON, Feb. 28th, 1861.

HON, J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of Committee on Public Safety :

DEAR SIR :—I sail for Brazos Santiago with 325 men, in an hour—now 10 o'clock, P. M. I have only time to say, I am tired, and do not expect we will have much trouble with Capt. Hill.

Col. Rainey and Armstrong has my report of events on the Rio Grande, Please present me to Judge Roberts, and friends generally,

Yours, &c.

E. B. NICHOLS.

From these it will be seen that the five hundred men first sent out were deemed insufficient for the emergency, and Gen. Nichols returned to Galveston for an additional force, and took back with him 325 men. The Committee are gratified to report that although Capt. Hill appeared obstinate and determined not to yield up his post with the arms and munitions, the whole matter has been finally adjusted without a conflict, on the basis agreed upon with Gen. Twiggs by the Commissioners to San Antonio.

The Committee are not yet informed, in detail, of the amount of property obtained by Col. Ford's expedition; an inventory of the property obtained at Brazos Santiago is herewith submitted in Gen. Nichol's Report, supposed to be worth the sum of from one hundred to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. It is believed that the amount at Brownsville and other posts on the Rio Grande will not fall short of one million dollars. The Committee are constantly looking for the arrival of Gen. Nichols, who will be able to furnish a full report of that department.—The Committee take occasion to say, that in all their movements, especially at the inception of them, they endeavored to observe the most profound secrecy, not on account of any apprehension of obstacles being thrown in the way by the true and loyal citizens of Texas, but they were not unmindful of the fact, that there were enemies to Texas and the South, with whom it would be indiscreet to entrust a knowledge of their movements. Secrecy therefore was only intended to protect the country against enemies, not friends. If the enemies are dissatisfied on account of the secrecy, it shows the wisdom and prudence in the Committee in the observance of it.

The Committee cannot close this report without expressing their gratification at the prompt manner with which all the officers they have appointed have performed the duties assigned them. Having heretofore alluded to the conduct and management of the others, they take this occasion to bear testimony to the invaluable services of Col. John S. Ford, and Lieut. Col. Hugh McLeod, in the great cause of Secession, and in obtaining the Federal property on the Rio Grande.

The Committee are unable, for the absence of a final report from Col. Ford and Gen. E. B. Nichols, to close up this branch of business, but they will submit an ordinance by which the same may be done after the adjournment of this Convention.

I have the honor to be very respectfully,

JOHN C. ROBERTSON.

Chairman of Com., on Public Safety.

(Document No. 2.)

THE STATE OF TEXAS, IN ACCOUNT WITH E.
B. NICHOLS, AGENT.

1860.

Debits.

February, 15th,	To paid Fiquet & Boswet, Bill	
" "	Capt. 1, - - - -	\$ 8 350
" 13th,	To paid J. H. & I. N. Marks,	
" "	Bill Capt. 2, - - - -	1 248 70
" 13th,	To paid Jas. Connely & Co.,	
" "	Bill Capt. 3, - - - -	4 478 40
" "	To paid for 50 M Percussion	
" "	Caps; La State, 4, - - -	50 00
" 15th,	To paid W. H. Letchford & Co.	
" "	Bill Capt. 5, - - - -	1 570 00
" 18th,	Cash to J. C. Robertson, Chm'n.	
" "	of Com., - - - -	10,000 00
" "	Balance down, - - - -	6,639 40
		\$ 24,070 00

1860.

Credits.

February 13th,	By Cash from Citizens Bank N. O.	\$ 10,000 00
" "	" " Q W. Pierce & E.	
" "	" " Nichols, - - -	10,000 00
" "	" " W. H. Litchford	
" "	" " & Co., - - -	1 570 00
" "	" " Jas. Connolly & Co.	2 500 00
		\$ 24,070 00

1861.

February 18th,	By Balance Down on hand,	\$ 6 639 40
E. & O. E.		

Galveston, February 18th, 1861.

E. B. NICHOLS, Agent,
By R. O. Brown.

*(Document No. 3.)**LIST OF POSTS in the Department of Texas, and number, and designation of Companies at each Post.*

Fort Bliss, Texas,	3 Companies of 8th Infantry.
Camp Cooper, “	2 cos. of 2d Cavalry and 1 com. of 1st Infantry.
Fort Quitman, “	1 com. of 8th Infantry.
Fort Chadbourne, “	Hd. Qrs. and 2 cos. of 1st Infantry.
Camp Colorado, “	1 com. of 2d Cavalry.
Fort Davis, “	3 cos. of 8th Infantry.
Fort Lancaster, “	1 com. of 1st Infantry.
Fort Stockton, “	1 com. of 8th Infantry.
Fort Mason, “	Hd. Qrs. and 2 cos. of 2nd Cavalry.
Camp Hudson, “	1 com. of 8th Infantry.
Camp Verde, “	Hd. Qrs. and 1 com. of 1st Inf'try.
Camp Ives, “	1 com. of 2nd Cavalry.
Fort Clark, “	5 cos. of 3rd Infantry.
San Antonio Bks. “	1 com. of 8th Infantry.
Fort Inge, “	1 com. of 2d Cavalry.
Fort Duncan, “	3 cos. of 1st Artillery, (one a mounted battery com. K, 1st Artillery.)
Camp Wood, “	1 com. of 2d Cavalry.
Fort McIntosh, “	2 cos. of 3d Infantry.
Ringgold B'ks. “	3 cos. of 3d Infantry.
Camp on Rio G'd. “	2 cos. of 2d Cavalry.
Fort Brown, “	1 com. of 1st and 1 com. of 2d Artillery, (one a mounted battery, com. M, 2d Artillery.)

APPENDIX

TO REPORT NO. 3.

COMMITTEE ROOM, }
March, 23rd, 1861. }

To O. M. ROBERTS,

President of the Convention :

The Committee on Public Safety beg leave to submit herewith the report of Gen. E. B. Nichols to the Convention, which had not been received when they made their report heretofore, on this subject. By this report and the accompanying documents thereto, it will be seen that Gen. Nichols, as Commissioner for the State of Texas, and as financial agent, has raised on the faith of the State, and disbursed by order of the committee, the sum of fifty-eight thousand two hundred and fifty-five dollars, so far as he can at this time ascertain. Gen. Nichols, is unable to report the whole amount at this time, as the business of his mission has not yet been finally disposed of.

The chairman of the committee appointed three of the committee to examine the accounts and vouchers exhibited by Gen. Nichols, and they have reported them correct. By the report it will also be seen, that about three thousand dollars yet remains to be audited; making the whole cost of the Rio Grande expedition about sixty-one thousand dollars, less eight thousand dollars otherwise expended, for the payment of which, Gen. Nichols, by authority of the Convention, pledged the faith of the State. The committee submits this report, the report of Gen. Nichols and his accounts, as an appendix to the report made of the Rio Grande expedition on yesterday, and asks that the same be printed as a part thereof.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

JOHN C. ROBERTSON.

Chairman of Committee on Public Safety.

Report }
No. 4. }

REPORT

OF

GEN. E. B. NICHOLS.

TO HON. JOHN C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of the Committee of Public Safety :

The undersigned, a Commissioner and Financial Agent on the part of the Convention for the State of Texas, duly appointed, having discharged all the duties assigned him, ask leave to make the following report :

On the reception of my instructions, I proceeded forthwith to New Orleans, and procured on the faith of the State, the sum of \$24,070 ; \$10,000 of which I received of the Citizens' bank of that city. The State as well as myself, have been placed under great obligations to Mr. J. D. Denege, the President of the Bank, for the gentlemanly and lively interest manifested in our behalf. I have given a certificate of indebtedness, in substance as follows :

"By virtue of the authority vested in me, by the people of the State of Texas in Convention assembled, at Austin, on the 28th day of January, 1861, I hereby acknowledge to have received for the use of the State of Texas, from———, the sum of———dollars, which amount I pledged the faith of the State of Texas to repay, with ten per cent. interest from date, payable out of the first moneys appropriated for the use of the army."

E. B. NICHOLS,

Commissioner and Financial Agent for the State of Texas.

I contracted with Mr. J. C. Harris, Manager of the Southern Steam Ship Company, for the use of the steamship Gen. Rusk, to transport our troops to Brazos Santiago. I submit charter party, marked "A." I also purchased the commissary stores and ammunition as directed, which will more fully appear by reference to my accounts and vouchers hereinafter submitted.

I also procured of Gov. Moore of Louisiana, through Col. Hebert and Adjutant General M. Grevot, of the military board of Louisiana, 250 stand of percussion muskets, 5000 rounds of ammunition,——cartridge boxes, belts, &c., for which I gave a receipt in behalf of Texas, to be paid for or returned to the State of Louisiana. These and other munitions, I forwarded to Galveston by McKeever's Express Company. Mr. McKeever, attended to the forwarding in person, and without charge. To Col. Hebert and Gen. Grevot, the State aswell as myself, have been placed under great obligations, for the interest manifested in our behalf. The commissary stores were shipped on the steamship Texas, to Galveston. I returned to Galveston on the 17th, and the day following, after a conference with Col. Ford, finding that the Rusk had not the capacity to carry all our troops, we chartered the steamboat "Union," and the schooner "Shark," which with the latter in tow of the Gen. Rusk, comprised the transport of the expedition.

In accordance with the authority I held, and your instructions on the 19th ult., I appointed H. B. Waller, Esq., Secretary of the Commissioner to the Rio Grande, we embarked for Brazos Santiago, with the troops under the command of Col. Ford and Lieut. Col. McLeod, on the morning of the 20th, where we arrived on the 21st, and took possession of that point, as reported by Col. Ford.

On the 22nd, Col. Ford, Lieut. Col. McLeod, Mr. Waller, and myself proceeded to Brownsville on the Rio Grande. Col. F. W. Latham furnishing all necessary transportation and contributing every way in his power to our comfort and assistance. We reached Brownsville at noon of the same day, and as had been previously agreed, Col. Ford called on some of the officers of the United States army, stationed at that post, to ascertain if possible, what course the commanding officer would pursue. Col. Ford, having effected nothing, or gained any important information, reported to me at 4 P. M. I then sent a communication to Capt. B. H. Hill, the commanding officer of the troops stationed at Fort Brown, in substance, as follows :

TO CAPT. B. H. HILL, U. S. A.,
Commanding Fort Brown :

SIR :—As Commissioner of the State of Texas, I am delegated to have an interview with you, relative to matters between the sovereign State of Texas and your government, the United States. I should be pleased to have such interview at your earliest convenience, when I will make known to you my mission. Hoping to hear from you soon and that you will appoint a time and place for our meeting.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obd't servant,

E. B. NICHOLS,
Commissioner for Texas.

To this communication, I received by Mr. Waller, a verbal reply, that I could see Capt. Hill by calling at his quarters, that evening or the next day, as my wishes or convenience dictated. Not waiving a written reply to my communication, I declined to accept a verbal one. That same evening I visited Matamoras, accompanied by Col. Latham and Mr. Waller, where Col. Latham, explained to some of the most prominent citizens of that city, the object of our mission and the expedition.

On the night of the 22nd, at a late hour, I learned that Capt. Hill meditated an immediate attack upon the troops quartered at Brazos Santiago. I immediately addressed him the following communication :

BROWNSVILLE, 12 P. M.

TO CAPT. B. H. HILL, U. S. A.,
Commanding Fort Brown :

SIR :—I had the honor to transmit to you, by the hands of my Secretary, Mr. Waller, a written communication requesting a conference, touching matters existing between our respective governments, to which, I only received an indefinite verbal reply. While I am waiting your formal reply thereto, a rumor has reached me, that an attack is contemplated by you upon the Texas troops, now encamped on Brazos Island. I will not allude to the consequence of such an act against the sovereignty of my State. The fate of individuals on either side, is a matter

of little consequence, compared with national results, affecting the whole country. Civil war, with all its horrors, of which we may not see the end, would inevitably ensue. As my own immediate course of action depends upon the nature of your reply, I respectfully ask it at once, and in writing.

Very respectfully,

E. B. NICHOLS,
Commissioner for Texas.

Col. Ford, Lieut. Col. McLeod and Mr. Waller, then proceeded to get what information they could respecting the rumored attack. Two trusty men were placed in a position where they could watch the movements of the Federal troops. In the morning they reported, that nothing had occurred in the barracks, to justify the opinion that any number of the United States troops would march soon. Early, however, on the morning of the 23rd, Lieut. Col. McLeod, left for Brazos Santiago, to fortify that place. I received about noon of the 23rd, the following communication in reply to my last:

HEADQUARTERS, FT. BROWN, }
Feb. 23rd, 1861. }

SIR:—I have received your two letters, dated Feb. 22nd, 1861. The former announcing yourself “as Commissioner of the State of Texas, delegated to have an interview with you, (me) in relation to matters of business between the government of the United States and Texas.” The latter stating “that a rumor had reached me, (you) that an attack is contemplated by your (my) authority upon the Texas troops, encamped on Brazos Island;” that, “civil war, with all its horrors, which we may not see the end of, would inevitably ensue,” and that your immediate course depends upon the nature of your (my) reply. I know of no “matters of business” between the Federal government and Texas, which you on the one hand, and myself on the other, have power to transact. However, as no detriment to the public service, can result from a conference, you are hereby informed that I shall be found at my quarters in the garrison

at any hour to-day, when it may suit your pleasure to appear for the transaction of all business, appertaining to my official duties.

Respectfully,

Your obd't servant,

B. H. HILL.

Captain Commanding.

To E. B. NICHOLS,

Commissioner.

Immediately after the reception of the above letter, I proceeded to call upon Capt. Hill at his quarters, accompanied by Mr. Waller. I was courteously but formally received, and at once explained the object of my visit and mission. I was promptly informed by Capt. Hill, that he would not recognize my authority as Commissioner for the State of Texas, or the power of the Convention, to delegate such authority; that he only knew the Governor as the head of the State government, and could hold no official communication with me; that the Commission had been guilty of an act of war against the government of the United States, in taking possession of Brazos Santiago, in the manner it was done; that he had issued an order (or contemplated doing so) the night before, for the arrest of Col. Ford, Lieut. Col. McLeod, Mr. Waller and your Commissioner; but, upon consultation with his officers, in whose judgment he expressed great confidence, he had determined not to execute the order. He also stated, that the day previous to the taking of Brazos Island, he had issued an order for the destruction of all the public property at that post; that the command sent to execute the order, met Lieut. Thompson, who was in command at Brazos Santiago at the time it was taken by the State troops, on the road to Brownsville with his command, to report what had occurred. From all the circumstances, I am induced to believe, we would have lost all the valuable property, which fell into our hands at that place, had we been delayed a few hours. In connection with the subject of his order, regarding the destruction of this property at Brazos Santiago, he remarked, that we could infer what he would do with the Federal property at Fort Brown, if forced to evacuate his post; that the United States troops in Texas were about 2800 strong, embracing all the arms of the service in their greatest perfection, well equipped and furnished in every particular; could go where

ever they pleased ; meaning, I suppose, they could march out of Texas, and Texians could not prevent them ; and, he expressed great confidence, in the ability of the troops under his command, to whip volunteers, *three to one*. I told him I was not sent to banter or fight him, however much we differed in opinion on this subject. He made another allusion to the taking of Brazos Santiago, and then was understood to say : “ Gen. Nichols, I could have you arrested by civil authority for treason,” to which I replied emphatically, and in such a manner, that Capt. Hill did not again allude to the subject.

He, however, remarked, that although he could not recognize your Commissioner officially, yet he desired that he should address him a written communication, relative to his mission, to which, he would reply in the same manner.

He desired to know, if our demand of the command for the public property, included his light battery and small arms, and was informed, that whenever he recognized your Commissioner, and was ready to negotiate, these matters would be considered.

He repeatedly stated to your Commissioner, that he regarded the taking of Brazos Santiagó, by the troops under Col. Ford, as an act of war against the United States, and should he receive orders to leave the State, without instructions as to what disposition he should make of the government property in his charge, he would destroy it.

Your Commissioner suggested to him, that as there was no law contemplating such a contingency as now exists, he surely might exercise a wise discretion ; but, he expressed a determination to obey the orders of his government, whatever they were.

This closed our interview, and as requested, I addressed him in substance, the following communication, on the 23rd February, 1861 :

CAPT. B. H. HILL, U. S. A.,

Commanding Fort Brown :

In compliance with your desire, expressed in our interview this morning, I now address you upon the subject of my mission.

The people of Texas in Convention assembled, have delegated me to provide for the protection of the frontier ; to receive all ordnance and munitions of war, placed here and elsewhere on the frontier, for such protection, to accomplish which,

a. portion of the necessary force is now here, believing that the Federal troops stationed on this frontier, would immediately be withdrawn upon the secession of Texas from the United States.

I am prepared to receive and receipt for all the property in your charge, placed here for the protection of this frontier by the Federal government. The Texas troops, under the command of Col. J. S. Ford, now here, came on a mission of peace, and I trust that no act of theirs, or their officers, will justify a hostile collision between them and the Federal troops. It is, however, necessary that our troops be stationed at once, at the different posts on the frontier, in order to give such protection to our citizens as may be required. Hence, the great necessity to be placed in immediate possession of all government property now here for that purpose.

Texas is virtually out of the Union. Her destiny has been fixed. Her people have spoken their sovereign will through the ballot-box, and who will doubt for a moment, that they are determined to maintain their free and independent nationality.

The troops placed here by the United States, are now upon foreign soil ; hence, the necessity of their speedy removal, and the surrender of all the Federal property under your charge. Business calls me back at an early period, in order to receive and forward the balance of the troops, destined for the protection of this frontier.

I will be pleased to receive an early answer from you, that I may carry back with me, the gratifying intelligence to my people, that there will be no collision between the authorities of the United States and those of Texas.

Very respectfully,

E. B. NICHOLS,
Commissioneer.

To which the following reply was received :

HEADQUARTERS, FT. BROWN, }
TEXAS, Feb. 23rd, 1861. }

SIR :—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date.

It will be impossible without instructions from my government, to accede to your request, to deliver into your possession

the public property, or any portion thereof at this place. In assuming that this property, "placed here," as you say, for the use of the State of Texas, becomes the property of the Republic of Texas, upon the separation from the Federal government, you have raised a question, (upon which, my government, will doubtless, take action in due season) but which in the mean while, cannot effect my military duties or responsibilities. I take pleasure in reciprocating, personally, the courtesy and good will implied in your assurance, that no act of the Texas troops in this vicinity, "shall justify a hostile collision with the Federal troops;" further than this, that assurance has no official weight or application, inasmuch, as the said Texas troops, numbering several hundred, have already committed an act of hostility against the United States, in seizing the public property at Brazos Santiago, dispossessing therefrom, a guard of twelve United States soldiers, placed there for its protection.

I am, Sir,

Respectfully, your ob't serv't,

B. H. HILL,

Capt. and Acting Com.

To GEN. E. B. NICHOLS,

Commissioner.

In view of the position assumed by Capt. Hill, Col. Ford and myself held a conference to decide upon the course to be pursued, so as to prevent a collision before we could be reinforced, and considering the large number of United States troops on the Rio Grande, including both batteries of light artillery, with Brazos Santiago for their natural outlet, and being ignorant of the acts of our Commissioners at San Antonio, we determined to dispatch an express to Corpus Christi to hurry forward the mounted men then on the way, and that I should return to Galveston, with the Gen. Rusk, and get as many more troops as she could bring, to reinforce Lieut. Col. McLeod at Brazos Santiago.

Col. Ford, remaining at Brownsville, was indefatigable in his exertions to bring about an arrangement, that should lead to a peaceable settlement of matters. If Capt. Hill contemplated an attack upon our troops, Col. Ford would have the earliest intelligence of it, and proceed at once to Brazos Santiago to take command.

I found at Brazos Santiago, the government property in

charge of John L. Greer, an ordnance sergeant of the U. S. army, from whom I received the same, and receipted for it in behalf of the State of Texas. I appointed J. L. Greer, (who had left the service of the United States,) an ordnance sergeant, and required of him a bond for the faithful performance of his duties as custodian of the public property, which bond is hereby submitted and marked "exhibit B ;" also, a report of the ordnance stores, shot, shell, fixed ammunition and other materiels of war in his charge, marked, "exhibit C."

Lieut. Col. McLeod, at my request, ordered sergeant Greer, to ship to Galveston, such portion of these stores as were not needed for the defense of that point, which were consigned to Gen. Sidney Sherman, who will report the same to you.

On the 24th of February, after my return to Brownsville, I requested Lieut. Col. McLeod to detail Lieut. W. W. Reynolds, of the Lone Star rifles, as regimental quartermaster. His fine business capacity, intelligence and promptness in details, highly recommended him to me, and his subsequent activity in the performance of his onerous duties, has fully verified this opinion. I submit herewith his bond marked, "exhibit D."

I left Lieut. Col. McLeod, with his whole force actively engaged in fortifying his position. The men are in good spirits, with full rations, plenty of work, and contented to serve the cause by any means in the their power.

I left Brazos Santiago in company with my Secretary, on the 25th for Galveston. I took four men from the command who were sick. We reached Galveston on the 26th. The Liberty company under the command of Capt. Williams tendered their services, and were at once accepted, and ordered to report on the 28th, at Galveston. I telegraphed Col. Terry at Fort Bend, who had been selected to command the battalion of reinforcements, to be in readiness with a company from Brazoria and one from Houston, of 75 men each. The services of the Galveston rifles, under the command of Capt. McKean, were also accepted.

General and battalion orders were issued which will explain the plan of mustering and embarking the 2nd battalion. (See orders herewith transmitted) :

GALVESTON, February 28, 1861.

GENERAL ORDERS.

The reinforcements destined for the Rio Grande Military District, commanded by Col. John S. Ford, will take notice that I have appointed by authority of the "Convention of the People of Texas," the following battalion officers to command, until the reinforcement reports to Col. Ford for further orders:

COL. B. F. TERRY, *Commanding*,
 THOS. M. JACK, *Adjutant*,
 CHARLES THOMPSON, *Quarter-Master*
Commissary,
 CLARK CAMPBELL, *Surgeon*,
 MARCUS CAMPBELL, *Assistant Surgeon*,
 REV. J. E. CARNES, *Chaplin*.

The troops are to obey and respect the above named officers accordingly.

By order of the Convention.

E. B. NICHOLS,
Commissioner.

H. B. WALLER, *Secretary.*

THE RIO GRANDE EXPEDITION.

GALVESTON, February, 28, 1861.

BATTALION ORDER, }
 No. ——— }

The friends of the troops at Brazos St. Iago, living in Galveston, are notified that Capt. Smith, of the Steamship General Rusk, will receive packages, letters, &c., until 6 P. M. to-day.

The troops are expected to be on the wharf in readiness to embark at 7 P. M. The steamer will sail at 9 P. M. Seventy-five men from Galveston, seventy-five from Fort Bend, seventy-five from Houston, and seventy-five from Liberty, can only be received, and under no circumstances can any more be taken.

B. F. TERRY, *Commanding*.
 T. M. JACK, *Adjutant*.

The following order, issued by Col. Ford, February 18th, (instant) will be strictly enforced :

HEADQUARTERS, RIO GRANDE REGIMENT, }
GALVESTON, February 18th, 1861. }

ORDERS, }
No. 2. }

I. Capts. McLeod, Redwood, Davis and Nichols, will place their respective commands in readiness to embark on board the steamer Rusk, at 7 o'clock, P. M., to-day.

II. Any improper and disorderly conduct, disobedience to orders, or drunkenness, will be punished, and is, therefore, strictly forbidden.

III. Commanders of companies will have this order read to their commands, on parade, previous to embarkation.

[Signed]

JOHN S. FORD.

Col. Com. Rio Grande Mil. Dist.

Special train had been engaged for the transportation of the troops to Galveston, and placed at Col. Terry's disposal at Houston. Col. Terry reached Houston at 6 P. M., with the Brazoria company, under the command of Capt. Moseley, and finding there, two incomplete companies, under the command of Capts. E. Waller and Donnelly, these companies were consolidated under the command of Capt. E. Waller, Capt. Donnelly entering the ranks as a private ; the entire forces were then united under the command of Col. Terry, who brought them by railroad to Galveston. From there, they were promptly embarked on the steamer Gen. Rusk, whose energetic commander had everything in readiness for sea, with the Liberty county and Galveston rifles already on board.

On the morning of the 1st of March, we crossed the bar at Galveston, and with a favorable run reached Brazos Santiago on the 2nd at 11 A. M., where Col. Terry immediately reported his battalion to Lieut. Col. McLeod, and the whole command was consolidated into a regiment, Col. Terry accepting the Majority.

Your Commissioner then found the relations existing between Col Ford, and the officers commanding the U. S. troops at Ft. Brown, unchanged. No other written correspondence had taken place between Col. Ford and the officers, subsequent to that between Capt. Hill and myself.

Lieut. Col. McLeod had completed the defence of Brazos Santiago, enclosing that post by a parapet for infantry, with bastions or redoubts at the angles, for artillery. The fortification was as complete as could be made under the circumstances. A battery was then mounted, under the direction of Capt. Van Buren of Galveston Artillery; a 24 pounder placed in each redoubt, with light guns and howitzers along the curtains. A picket guard of thirty cavalry was posted at Boco Chico Pass, under the command of Capt. Conner of the Fort Bend rifles. The horses were purchased on the Island and adjacent ranches.

This pass was the only approach to the Island, except by the harbor.

Such was the order and discipline observed with our troops, that I feel confident we could have maintained our position, had Capt. Hill placed himself in a more belligerent attitude, and with double his number; our strength was then, not only adequate to the protection of the place, but, was competent to take the field. Events which had transpired in our national affairs, had nerved every arm and determined every man of this force, upon his individual course, in case there should be a conflict between us, and the forces of the late United States.

On the 3rd of March, the steamer Daniel Webster, which had long been expected, and known to have left New York on the 15th of February, arrived at the anchorage off the bar. It was doubtful whether her mission was one of peace or hostility. We had a right to infer from the course of the United States officers, that it was hostility, Col. Ford, had arrived at Brazos Santiago on the night of the 2nd, accompanied by an officer of the United States garrison, who desired to communicate with the "Webster," but he was requested not to do so, until we could ascertain her character and purpose. The "Webster" brought Maj. Porter, Ass't Adj't Gen., of the United States army, with two other officers, who were invited by your Commissioner, (he with Maj. Terry and Mr. Waller, having boarded the Webster) to accompany him ashore. The conversation between Maj. Porter and myself, induced me to hope, that the purpose of the "Webster" was pacific, and the orders of Gen. Twiggs, would be executed. Late in the afternoon Col. Ford, in company with Maj. Porter, passed to Point Isabel without landing at Brazos Santiago, from thence they proceeded to Brownsville that evening.

Leaving Lieut. Col. McLeod in command, your Commissioner proceeded to Point Isabel, with his Secretary and Maj. Terry, where we arrived on the eve of the departure of Col. Ford and his friends.

On the evening of the 4th, I made a formal demand through my Secretary, on Col. F. W. Latham. for the Federal property then in his possession, as collector of Customs for the United States government, in the Rio Grande District. This demand was promptly complied with, as will appear by his letter herewith accompanying and marked, "exhibit E." I then appointed Col. Latham, agent of the State, taking his receipt for the property, and his bond for the faithful return of the same, which bond is now in charge of Mr. Waller. Col. Latham then resumed charge of the property. His receipt is herewith transmitted, and marked, "exhibit F."

On the same day I addressed a communication to Col. Ford, marked "G." His reply thereto is marked "H."

Maj. Terry, myself and Secretary, then returned to Lieut. Col. McLeod's quarters at Brazos Santiago, where we found the troops under great excitement in consequence of the firing of guns in the direction of Brownsville, which was believed to be in celebration of the inauguration of President Lincoln, and a defiance of the State of Texas. Lieut. Col. McLeod, after vainly attempting to reason with the command, who met him temperately, but firmly, with arguments he could not deny, called the Captains together in his quarters, and in presence of your Commissioner and Maj. Terry, the subject was discussed, and the subjoined letter to Col. Ford read (An order to the same effect had been published on parade, and was received with cheers by the regiment). The officers approved the letter, as a necessity of the situation, and stated they could only restrain their companies by a promise of explanation of the firing or immediate action. Your Commissioner remembers the scene with feeling, and notwithstanding his responsibility, for a moment gave way to a resentment so just and unanimous among officers and men.

On the morning of the 5th, the Arizona arrived, and her Captain failing to report himself to the commandant of the post, whose martial law prevailed, I felt it my duty to address a letter to the manager of the Southern Steam Ship Company, herewith transmitted, marked; exhibit "J."

Col. Ford's reply came promptly by express, and the officers were called together to hear it. It was a brief statement of the emergency and the unavoidable difficulties of his position. Although he had not received official notification, he was hopeful of the retirement of the garrison. He concluded by ordering the return of the troops to their post, if they had been crossed over to the main land.

I determined to dispatch Maj. Terry and Mr. Waller to Brownsville, to ascertain the condition of things, and end the suspense of the troops and my myself. Maj. Terry was instructed, first to make the observance of Gen. Twiggs' orders a *sine qua non*, and to request Col. Ford, to so far bring matters to a close, if practicable as to give a clue to the result of the mission.

On the 6th, sickness prevented me from discharging my official duties. The day following, however, I started to Brownsville, but missed Maj. Terry, who had taken a different road. I learned at Brownsville, that Col. Ford had not communicated in writing with Capt. Hill, until Maj. Terry's arrival. Maj. Terry had urged Col. Ford to make a written demand, who had addressed a communication to Capt. Stoneman.

Maj. Terry, not finding your Commissioner at Point Isabel, crossed to Brazos Santiago, to communicate the substance of Col. Ford's correspondence with Capt. Stoneman, to Lieut. Col. McLeod, and also, to quiet the resentment of the troops.

That being effected, both these officers returned at once to Brownsville, to aid Col. Ford and your Commissioner in the completion of the details, and arrange for the re-organization of the permanent force to remain with Col. Ford, and the return of the troops who had gone down for the emergency only.

Your Commissioner, on his arrival at Brownsville found himself too much debilitated by the fatigue of the journey to transact business. Capt. Hill, being at Brownsville, and hearing of my arrival and illness, called upon me. He spoke of the difficulty of his position, he being without orders, and not authorized to recognize or know anything about secession, or any State official not known to the pre-existing government. But, now, he was under marching orders, and was gratified that matters had taken a pacific turn, and that blood shed would be avoided.

The continued ill health of your Commissioner, compelled him to abandon the active duties of his mission, and substitute his Secretary, Mr. Waller.

On the evening of the 10th, Col. Ford arrived, and took command in person, Lieut. Col. McLeod and Maj. Terry, having re-organized the command as indicated above.

Your Commissioner returned with the field officers to the steamer Rusk, and on the next day, the 13th, the troops destined for Galveston, were marched on board, excepting the Liberty company, which was to be brought by the schooner Shark.

At Brazos Santiago, I formally appointed Mr. Waller, my Agent, to execute the powers entrusted to me by your commit-

tee, so far as the business was unfinished. (See instruction to him marked "exhibit K.")

Before sailing from Brazos Santiago, Capt. Smith of the Gen. Rusk, chartered his ship to Maj. Porter, Ass't. Adj't. Gen. U. S. army, to aid in the removal of the United States troops, from the Rio Grande valley.

The steamer Gen. Rusk arrived at Galveston on the morning of the 15th. The troops belonging to Harris and Fort Bend counties left on the morning train for their homes, under Maj. Terry's command. Capt. Mosley's company, of Brazoria, left on the Houston steamer the same evening, for their homes.

On the 15th, I wrote to Mr. J. C. Harris, manager of the Southern Steamship Company, a letter, herewith transmitted, marked "exhibit L." His reply thereto, is also submitted, marked, "exhibit M."

On the 16th, I dispatched by the steamer Rusk, to Col. Ford, a communication, of which the following is a copy :

GALVESTON, March 16th, 1861.

COL. J. S. FORD,

Com. Rio Grande Mil. Dist.,

SIR:—As Commissioner for the State of Texas, with more ample information of the public necessity in this quarter, and of the views of the Convention, than when we parted on the 13th, inst., at Brazos Santiago, I now write to inform you, that all public property, not needed for the active defence of the Rio Grande valley and its outlets, should be immediately removed to points where it is required, or may be easily protected. Four 24 pounders, with one mortar and one howitzer, with 100 shot and shell for each gun, and a proper proportion of ammunition will suffice. A proper supply of rifle ammunition for your command, will be at your discretion.

The ordnance guns, shot, shell and fixed ammunition, will be shipped to Galveston and reported to Gen. Sherman, who is in charge, by authority of the Convention. The quartermaster trains, and all surplus company wagons and cavalry horses and equipments not required for the use of your command, and all surplus movable property, will be turned over to Mr. Waller, for transportation to San Antonio, where the means of public storage are ample. San Antonio is the proper depot, as it has

been heretofore, for the concentration and outfit of troops for the western frontier defence.

The policy to be pursued towards Mexico, will be indicated to you through our State Convention, or by the Southern Congress at an early day.

I have been too unwell to attend to the buying of corn, but will do so in time for the schooner Shark, which I trust, when she returns to you, will be promptly dispatched with a full cargo, and have on board a battery of guns for the use of the Galveston Artillery company.

The enclosed communication from Gen. Sherman, will inform you of the preparations that are, or will immediately be made for the safe keeping of all the State property shipped here.

For late news I refer you to files of papers.

Very respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

E. B. NICHOLS,

Commissioner, &c.

On the 22nd February, while at Brownsville, I sent a despatch, to be forwarded by telegraph from New Orleans, giving information to the Southern Congress, through our delegation there, of the progress of my mission, in the valley of the Rio Grande. I also, sent dispatches from Galveston on the 25th, ult., and the 15th March, relative to the same subject, and on the 16th wrote at length.

On the 17th March, the schooner Shark arrived at Galveston, bringing the Liberty Company. By the return of the Shark, I dispatched to Col. Ford, 500 sacks of corn and 500 of oats, he having made a requisition for the same. I also forwarded by the Shark, the following order to sergeant Greer :

JOHN L. GREER,

Ord. Serg. Texas Army :

You will immediately upon the receipt of this, ship upon the schooner Shark, and also, upon the schooner which will carry oil for the light-house, both of which vessels are instructed to report to you for that purpose, all the guns of all calibres, including seige guns, mortars, howitzers, field guns and their carria-

ges, as far as they have any there, travelling forges, battery wagons, caissons,, chassis, shot shell, fixed ammunition and all other military material and property not required for the outfit and active service of Col. Ford's command. The invoice furnished by yourself to me, will give you the details of property at Brazos Santiago ; and Mr. Waller, who holds my power of attorney as agent of the Convention, will turn over the military stores he receives at Fort Brown.

Having completed the shipment of the property, you will report in person to Capt. W. H. Stevens, Engineer, Texas army, at this place, for duty.

E. B. NICHOLS,
Commissioner for Texas.

The account and vouchers herewith submitted, (see "exhibit N.") show that your Financial Agent, borrowed on the faith of the State, the sum of \$58,556 81, for which he issued certificates, in form as heretofore reported, to the order of the parties named in the account as having furnished the money. \$7,741 50 was used by your committee and accounted for. About \$20,000 paid for transportation, ordnance and ordnance stores ; \$20,815 31 in quartermaster and commissary stores and cash to the quartermaster's department, including \$3,000 to Mr. Waller to defray the expenses of the transportation train to San Antonio.

There are still some unsettled accounts for the transportation of the troops from Liberty and Brazoria counties, to and from their homes. There is a balance due the steamboat Union and schooner Shark, amounting in all, to about \$2,000.

I would call the attention of the Committee to the circumstances of raising money to carry out the views of the Convention. At the time I received the appointment, as your Commissioner and Financial Agent. there was a great monetary depression throughout the country, and owing to the unsettled condition of our national affairs, I was in some instances compelled to give my personal security, before I could obtain the means necessary to carry out the contemplated objects of my mission. Many considered the undertaking too experimental, however great their patriotism, to give their aid in money.

Your assurances, induced me to make strong personal representations in procuring this money, that it would be returned immediately upon the re-assembling of the State Legislature.

These circumstances, and the sacredness of this debt, I earnestly hope will be impressed upon the minds of your Committee, and the Legislature of the State.

I cannot conclude without recommending to your kind consideration, H. B. Waller, Esq., the Secretary of the Commission, who, not only discharged with fidelity and zeal, the duty of the position assigned him, but whose eminent legal ability rendered him indispensable to the Commission.

Thanking the Convention for the trust reposed in me, I hope my acts in the discharge of the duties incumbent on me, will be satisfactory to you, and meet the approbation of my fellow-citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

E. B. NICHOLS,

Commissioner and Financial Agent for the State of Texas

EXHIBITS TO ABOVE REPORT.

[*Exhibit A.*]

This Article of agreement, between the State of Texas and the Southern Steamship Company of New Orleans, witnesseth:—

FIRSTLY, That the said Southern Steamship Company, does charter to the State of Texas, the steamship Gen. Rusk, for the purpose of making one trip from Galveston to Brazos St. Iago and back to Galveston; said charter to commence from the time the steamer is reported ready to commence the service, and to terminate when the steamer shall have arrived at Galveston on her return, and shall have been delivered back by the State of Texas. The Company is to furnish water and fuel for all

parties on board, and cabin fare for 40 or 50 officers. The charter is for the term of ten days or less ; but, should the State detain or hold the steamer in the service, over the ten days specified, then the State of Texas agrees to pay to the Southern Steamship Company, five hundred dollars per day, for every such day of detention, in excess of the specified ten days. The steamer is to be under the charge of her present officers. Should the steamer Arizona be detained on her voyage, to accommodate the State of Texas, the State of Texas hereby agrees to pay to the Southern Steamship Company, five hundred dollars per day for every such day of detention.

SECONDLY, That the State of Texas hereby agrees : for, and in consideration of the faithful performance of the obligations hereinbefore set forth ; to pay for the charter of the steamer Gen. Rusk, the sum of five thousand dollars, and to deliver the said steamer Gen. Rusk, back to the said Southern Steam Ship Company, or it's officers, safely, and in good order at the port of Galveston, Texas, the usual sea risk while engaged in the voyage excepted.

Thus done and passed, in the city of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, this thirteenth day of February, A. D., 1861.

E. B. NICHOLS, *Commissioner*
and *Financial Agent for the State of Texas.*

SOUTHERN STEAMSHIP CO.

J. C. HARRIS, *Pres't.*

[WITNESSES.]

MAURICE LENIHAN,
JNO. B. HENO.

[*Exhibit B.*]

THE STATE OF TEXAS, }
COUNTY of CAMERON, }

Know all men by these presents that we John L. Greer, as principal, and F. W. Latham and Dan A. Connor as sureties, are held and firmly bound unto the State of Texas, in the sum of one thousand dollars, for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents :

Witness our hands, this the 21st day of February, 1861.

The condition of the above bond is such, that whereas the above bounden, John L. Greer, has been this day appointed Sergeant of ordnance, at Brazos Santiago.

Now, if the said John L. Greer, shall well and truly discharge the duties incumbent on him as such Sergeant of ordnance, then this bond to be null and void, otherwise, to remain in full force and virtue.

Witness our hands, this the 4th day, and date first before written.

JOHN L. GREER,
DAN A. CONNOR.

[*Exhibit C.*]

INVOICE of Ordnance and Ordnance stores, this day turned over by J. Greer, Ordnance Sergeant, U. S. A., to Gen. E. B. Nichols, Texas Army.

3	24	Pounders, brass howitzers,
12	24	“ iron seige guns,
8	8 in.	Howitzers, (iron seige,)
4	10 in.	Mortars,
4	12 lbs.	Field Limbers,
1	24 lb.	Howitzer field stocktrail,
2	32 lb.	Limbers, for 32 lb. howitzers,
4	12	prs. Caissons,
2	32	“
1		Traveling forge,
1		Battery wagon,
4	24	prs. Barbettee carriages,
4	24	“ Chaisiss,
15	24	“ (or eight inch) Howitzer seige carriages,
3	10 in.	Mortar beds,
3		Filling axes,
40		Sponge buckets, (wood)
34		Tar buckets, (iron)
16		Breach sights for cannon,
33		Budge barrels,
45		Cannon locks,
6		“ spikes,
8		Chocks for Barbette carriages,
21		“ “ wheels,

12	Drag ropes,
92	Eye pins or bolts,
5	Fuze augurs,
3	“ exstrators,
1	“ cutter,
4	“ gimlets,
40	“ mallets,
20	“ plug reamers,
6	“ rasps,
11	“ saws,
34	“ setters, (brass)
10	Gimlets, (common)
2	Gunner's Callipers,
39	“ Gimlets,
31	“ Haver-sacks,
1	“ Level,
1	“ Quadrant, (brass)
20	“ “ (wood)
2	Grates for hot shot,
4	Forks “
18	Grain bags,
8	Handspikes, trail,
8	“ for 24 pds. howitzers.
18	“ “ maneuvering,
50	“ short,
42	“ long,
6	“ shod,
12	Nose bags,
52	Implement stakes,
4	Ladeles for hot shot,
6	“ 24 pdrs., guns,
7	Lanterns, (dark)
9	“ (common)
112	Lanyards, (assorted)
4	Lead aprons,
14	Len stocks,
16	Loading tongs,
14	Lock covers, (leather)
30	Mauls,
4	Pickaxes,
12	Pairs boxes,
3	Plummets,
16	Pointing stakes,
8	“ wires,

4	Pokers for hot shot,
4	Port-firer cases,
4	" shears,
17	" stocks,
4	Powder funnels, (copper)
10	" measures,
19	Priming horns,
86	" wires,
6	" " (field service)
10	Prolonges,
48	Rammers and staves for 24 pounders,
2	" " hot shot,
2	Rakes,
2	Shell hooks,
77	Securing stakes,
1	Scraper,
2	" for 24 pds., guns,
3	" " Mortars,
2	" " 8 in. howitzers,
6	Shell hooks, (double)
5	" plug screws,
300	" splints,
40	Sponge covers, (24 pounders)
15	" (8 in. howitzers)
6	" woolen (12 pounders)
1	" and rammer, (24 pds., howitzer)
20	" " (8 in. howitzers)
1	" " (12 pdrs., guns)
45	Sponges and staves, (24 pdrs., guns)
3	Ladles and worm,
5	Tangent scales, (12 pdrs., guns)
2	" 24 " howitzers,
2	" 32 " "
35	Thumb-stalls,
19	Tompions with straps, for 8 in. howitzers,
12	" for 24 pdrs., guns,
8	" 12 " "
2	" 32 " howitzers,
2	Tongs for hot shot,
15	Tow hooks,
13	Tube pouches,
13	Vent pouches,
3	Worms and staves for seige and garrison,
950	24 pounder balls,

1200	18	"
506	12	"
1776	8 in.	howitzer shell,
814	10 in.	mortar,
800	12 pdrs.,	(for 12 pdrs., guns) fixed shot,
615	6	" 6 " "
200	12	" sphl. case shot,
106	24	" howitzer sphl. case,
128	12	gun canister,
140	6	"
36	24 pdrs.,	gun grape,
22	12	"
8		Cavalry sabres,
200	24 pdrs.,	howitzer cartridges, (small charge)
50	24	" " large "
153	12	" gun, "
297	18	" " "
4960		Musket B. & B. "
12000		Rifle ball, "
11,500		Pistol ball percussion cartridge,
27,244		Colt's " "
500	12 pdrs.	cartridge bags, (flannel)
2,133	24	" " "
400	6	" " "
1,720	8 in.	howitzers " "
720		Fuzes for 10 in. mortars,
2,210	"	plugs for 8 inch shells,
80	"	wood 24 pdrs., sphr. case shot,
370	"	papers, (assorted)
650	"	plugs for 8 in. sphr. case shot,
22,290		Percussion caps for small arms,
1,244		Port-fires,
14-16		Lbs. of quick match,
823½	"	slow "
50		Yards "
2		Ammunition chests,
2		Capes, squares,
25		Fellies for field carriages,
15		Keys for ammunition chests,
25		Linch pins,
16		Leading bars,
3		Pad locks,
123		Nuts, (assorted)
8		Nave bands, (developed)

10	Lbs. copper nails,
4	Spare poles,
1	Pintle hook,
8	“ crosses,
1	Pole prop, locket and ring,
14	Quoins for 8 in. howitzer,
6	“ 10 in. mortar,
1	Stock for caissons,
1	“ battery wagon, (ironed)
40	Spokes, (filled)
40	Fire-bolts,
4	Fire-bands,
16	Washers for axle tree, lynch,
4	“ “ shoulder,
44	“ nuts and bolts, (heads)
6	Spare wheels,
14	12 pdrs. rammer heads,
14	12 “ sponge “
12	Halter chains,
135	Pounds of pig lead,
3	“ emery,
48	Blocks,
1	Gin block, (iron)
1	Treble block,
1	Double “
3	Lifting “
18	Half “
6	Quarter “
250	Deck plank,
1	Garrison gin,
2	Field and siege gin,
4	“ falls,
2	Garrison gin “
12	Gin chocks,
2	Single block for F. & G., gin,
2	Field and gin hand spikes,
4	Garrison “
9	Jack screws,
760	Lbs. No. 2 laboratory paper,
6	Long rollers,
9	Short “
6	Half “
1	Hand sling cart, (iron)
38	Sleepers for platform,

3	Shifting planks,
6	Skids,
4	Trunnion loops,
6	Slings for cannon,
3	Lbs. of cartridge thread,
7	“ shoe “
11	“ twine,
15	“ white hemp rope,
36	Buckles for harness,
2	Lbs. of copper tacks,
250	“ horse shoes,
50	“ “ nails,
10-12	Gross wood screws,
324	Lbs., cut nails,
10	“ cast steel nails,
10	“ steel blister,
200	“ bar iron,
5½	“ bees wax,
3	“ black “
25	“ tallow,
4	Ounces of bristol, do.,
½	Side of leather harness,
2	“ bridles,
10	Gallons of coal tar,
3	“ linseed oil,
5	“ neatsfoot,
25	Lbs. olive paint,
5	“ black,
10	“ putty,
2	Gallons spirits of turpentine,
1¼	Quires of envelope paper,
11	“ letter paper,
11	“ cap,
60	No. of envelops,
7½	Gross steel pens,
2	Lead pencils,
11	Pieces of office tape,
1¼	Bottles of black ink,
2	Ordnance manuels, (1850)
2	“ regulations, (1839)
1	“ “ (1852)
1	Carpenter's adze,
2	Leather aprons,
1	Smith's anvil,

3	Screw augurs,
2	Brad awls,
1	“ handle,
1	“ strap,
1	Broad axe,
17	Assorted bitts,
10	Boxes for battery working tools,
1	Buttress,
2	Hob chisels
2	Claw nails,
1	“ tools, (saddlers)
1	Compass, (common)
1	Calliper,
1	Saddler's creasers,
2	Smith's “
8	Lbs. of chalk,
5	Chalk lines,
2	Die stocks,
8	Pairs dies, (assorted)
12	File handles,
4	Wrought files for wood,
1	Fullers,
1	Grind Stone,
7	Smith's hammers, (assorted)
1	Saddler's “
3	Handles for augurs,
2	Hardies,
3	Heading tools, (assorted)
2	Clenching irons,
2	Mallets,
100	Saddlers needles, (assorted)
1	Oil stone,
2	Putty knives,
8	Smith's punches, (assorted)
2	Smith's pokers,
3	Pritchees,
2	Plane irons,
2	Two foot carpenter's rules,
2	Smith's shovels,
1	“ short handle,
4	Screw drivers,
2	Iron squares,
1	“ (bevel)
1	“ (trying)

1	Saw frame,
1	“ fenon,
2	“ setts,
4	Spotulds,
6	Spades,
1	Spoke shave,
1	Shoeing knife, (frog)
1	Saddler’s “ (half round)
5	Smith’s tongs, (assorted)
4	Sythe stones,
1	Fire cirdle,
9	Taps plugs,
10	“ (assorted)
4	Thimbles,
2	Hand vices,
1	Bevel “
1	Bench vice,
6	Wrenches, wreck and screw,
8	“ (common)
2	“ taps, 4 holes,
2	Boxes for tubes, (black walnut,)
297	Packing boxes, (assorted)
18	“ baskets,
30	Powder barrels,
2	“ $\frac{1}{2}$ “ (Lacket & Paint’s)
2	Kegs for tallow,
9	Tin canisters, (assorted)

JOHN S. GREER,
Ordinance Serg. U. S. A.

[*Exhibit D.*]

THE STATE OF TEXAS, }
COUNTY OF CAMERON, }

KNOW all men by these presents, that we, Wm. W. Reynolds, as principal, and E. B. Nichols and Hugh McLeod, as sureties, are held, and firmly bound unto the State of Texas, in the full sum of ten thousand dollars, for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, and each of our heirs and administrators, jointly and severally firmly by these presents.

Witness our hands, this the 24th day of February, 1861.

The condition of the above bond is such, that whereas, the above bounden, Wm. W. Reynolds, has this day been appointed by Gen. E. B. Nichols, Commissioner for the State of Texas, Quartermaster, to receive and take charge of the government stores and supplies, now on Brazos Island, and to enter into the duties of such quartermaster, and to report to Col. John S. Ford, Commander of the military department of the Rio Grande.

Now, if the said Wm. W. Reynolds, shall well and truly discharge all the duties incumbent upon him, as such quartermaster, and faithfully take care of said property placed in his hands as such quartermaster, and justly and truly account to the State of Texas, through the properly constituted authorities, for all such property, then this bond to be null and void, and of no effect whatever, otherwise, to remain in full force and virtue.

Witness our hands, this the day and date first before written.

W. W. REYNOLDS,
E. B. NICHOLS,
H. McLEOD.

[*Exhibit E.*]

CUSTOMHOUSE, POINT ISABEL, TEXAS. }
COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, March 2nd, 1861. }

SIR:—Your communication of this date, demanding of me the property belonging to the Federal government in my possession, as Collector of the customs for the district of Brazos de Santiago, is received.

The demand being made in the name of the sovereign people of the State of Texas, supported by an irresistible State military force, and no mode of resisting. I accede to your demand and will deliver to you, on a proper receipt therefor, all the property in my possession belonging to the Federal government, at such time as you may designate. It may not be improper for me to state, that I have tendered my resignation to take effect on March the 4th, 1861.

Respectfully, yours,

F. W. LATHAM.

GEN. E. B. NICHOLS,

Commissioner for the State of Texas.

H

[Exhibit F.]

RECEIVED, Point Isabel, March 4th, 1861, of E. B. Nichols, Esq., Commissioner, &c., for the State of Texas, the following property, located at the port of Point Isabel, Texas.

- 2 Large walnut desks, (sitting)
- 1 " " (standing)
- 1 " maple table,
- 1 Copying press,
- 1 Official seal,
- 1 Seal press,
- 1 Book case,
- 1 Post office balance,
- 2 Large iron safes,
- 1 Clock,
- 1 High chair,
- 1 Letter rack,
- 2 Calenders,
- 1 Spy glass,
- 11 Bound vols., decisions of Secretary under rev. laws.
- 2 Copies tariff, 1846,
- 1 Light-house regulations,
- 1 Regulations under revenue laws, 1857,
- 1 Coast survey, 1852,
- Reports of fiscal department,
- Copying bowl and brush,
- 1 Holy bible,
- 2 Tin paper cutters,
- 7 Pair scissors,
- 1 Tariff, 1857,
- 3 Pen racks,
- 10 Paper weights,
- Pen brush,
- 3 Inkstands,
- 4 Rulers,
- 1 Tape measure,
- 13 Bound vols., W. S. laws, 1789 to 1858.
- 1 Gordon's digest,
- 1 " compilation revenue laws,
- 1 Mayo's fiscal department,
- 2 Sand boxes,
- 1 Lot coast charts,

- 1 Walnut standing desk, (bond clerk's)
- 1 " " bench,
- 1 Walnut table,
- 2 Book rests,
- 2 Paper weights,
- 1 Paper cutter,
- 1 Inkstand,
- 2 Rulers,
- 1 Stool,
- 1 Foot bench,
- 1 Standing poplar desk,
- 1 Inkstand,
- 1 New stove and pipe,
- 1 Walnut table,
- 2 Inkstands,
- 1 Paper cutter,
- 1 Ruler,
- 1 Gauge,
- 1 Paper case of poplar,
- 1 Red cedar case,
- 1 Poplar desk and bench,
- 1 Foot bench,
- 1 Walnut table,
- 1 Book rest and inkstand,
- 1 Pen rack,
- 4 Paper weights,
- 1 Book-keeper's desk,
- 1 Inkstand,
- 2 Paper weights,
- 1 Sand box,
- 2 Book rests,
- 2 Rulers,
- 1 Thermometer,
- 1 Paper case,
- 1 Stool,
- 1 Foot bench,
- 1 Set large scales, (complete)
- 6 Walnut and poplar tables,
- 12 Chairs,
- 1 Small iron life boat, complete, (Francis,)
- 1 Inkstand, (storekeeper's)
- 2 Rulers,
- 1 Tin paper cutter,
- 1 Measuring stick,

- 1 Expeditionary calculator,
- 2 Common desks,
- 2 Paper weights,
- 1 Book rest.
- 1 Pen rack,
- 1 Large building used for warehouses and offices,
- 1 " " " by Collector,
- 1 " " " " Clerks,
- 1 Small " " " Messenger,
- 4 Cypress cisterns,

F. W. LATHAM.

[*Exhibit G.*]

(COPY)

POINT ISABEL, March, 4th, 1861.

COL. JOHN S. FORD,

Com. Rio Grande Mil. Dis.

SIR :—Presuming you had your own good reasons for your hasty departure yesterday evening, I am at a loss to know what course to pursue. From Mr. Kingsbury, I learn that the U. S. property will be turned over in due time. You know my wishes respecting the treatment the officers of the U. S. Army are to receive at our hands, as the representatives of the State of Texas, and my idea is, that we should be governed by their wishes, and avail ourselves of their experience and judgment in carrying out this important mission.

I feel, (and cannot divest myself of it) that we have an interest in the old U. S. A., it is composed of a part and parcel of us, and as we are friends and kin, I beg you will continue to exercise your good judgment in the direction you have been doing.

I now take it for granted, that we are to have no trouble, and as my mission is about to terminate, I would call your attention to the fact, that your command as now organized, cannot be kept together, after the fact becomes known; that the war is at an end. I brought my company with the express understanding that they would be ordered home, the moment you could spare them; several other companies occupy the same position.

I shall return to the Island to day, to make my arrangements to be with you to-morrow, unless you direct otherwise with the view of continuing on the northern boundary of your line, and then on to Austin, where I shall settle my accounts with the Convention and make my final report.

[Signed] _____ Yours, respectfully,
E. B. NICHOLS,
Commissioner.

[*Exhibit H.*]

BROWNSVILLE, March 5th, 1861.

GENERAL,

All parties have been expecting you here, I came by your request. I have taken no steps in regard to the property, because that would be trenching upon your powers. The officers say, they will go off on the Webster. I understand they will move five companies.

Maj. Porter said, late yesterday evening, that he would be obliged if the Texas forces, or any portion of them, were not placed on the Rio Grande, so as to be near the U. S. troops when they shall pass. He is extremely anxious to avoid all chances of collision, and appears desirous to preserve peace.

We must not by any act of ours saddle the responsibility of making a ceaseless war upon Texas or the South. The North must be made to shoulder everything of that sort. Please to communicate this to Lieut. McLeod, and tell him to see to it.

I shall await your arrival till to-morrow evening, and then, if nothing prevents I shall return to the Brazos.

A peaceful and conciliatory spirit seems to prevail among the officers of the army, and I hope all will go well. Make my respects to all.

Respectfully, yours,
JOHN S. FORD,
Col. Com. Rio Grande Mil. Dist.

GEN. E. B. NICHOLS,
Commissioner, &c.

[*Exhibit I.*]

HEAD QUARTERS, RIO GRANDE REGT., TEXAS ARMY, }
 BRAZOS SANTIAGO, March 4th, 1861. }

COLONEL :

The firing at Brownsville has been heard here and has excited this command. The troops interpret it as a menace. You know their character.. Many of the privates are planters and professional gentlemen of wealth. They represent the intelligence and chivalry of the planting and commercial region of the State. The whole command, even those who live by their daily labor at home, hold the same language. They all came to save its honor at the peril of life. They feel that a salute fired by the garrison at Fort Brown on the day of Lincoln's inauguration, dishonors this command, and through them the State of Texas. They know that the insult is only aggravated by the fact, that their commanding General has acknowledged the authority of the State, as expressed through the committee of Public Safety of the Convention, and issued public orders for their retirement from our territory, and they—our officers and men—express their determination, with a spirit which my own feelings and judgment do not permit me to repress.

But this is not my own judgment alone. It is concurred in by the other field officers present, Maj. Terry, and above us both by the commissioner of the Convention, Gen. Nichols. They are with me while I write.

I now beg that you will reply by Captain Connor of the Fort Bend Rifles, who carries this communication, that the firing of to-day is not of an insulting or hostile character to the State, or your regiment will be in full march on to-morrow to settle the question with the U. S. troops in the field.

With high respect,

H. McLEOD,
Lieut. Col. Com. Post.

To COL. J. S. FORD, T. A., Brownsville.

[A COPY]
 J. E. LOVE, *Adjutant.*

[*Exhibit J.*]

(COPY)

BRAZOS SANTIAGO, March 5th, 1861.

TO J. C. HARRIS, PRESIDENT,
S. S. S. Co., New Orleans,

SIR :—I intended to advise you that as anticipated and agreed upon by us, my State requires the use of your ship longer than provided for in the charter. I have been too much occupied to do so, but I am now called upon to report an outrage committed by Capt. Smith of the *Arizona*, which cannot be overlooked.

He arrived in port and left in a few minutes with his passengers, mail, &c., without even reporting to Col. McLeod, commanding this post, or to me, nor did he have the courtesy even to send Col. McLeod, a newspaper.

Important events are transpiring, it is reported that Gen. Twiggs has been disgraced. I fear Capt. Smith has committed a fatal error. I shall request Col. Ford, who is hourly expected, to arrest and iron him, and but for my knowledge of your political sentiments and those of my much esteemed friend Mr. Morgan and your stockholders, your handsome treatment to me as the agent of Texas, and the fact that the *Arizona* comes to us with the flag of Louisiana at her main, for which I give you credit, and not Capt. Smith, supposing that it was done by your orders, which flag one of our batteries on shore is now saluting, and but for which I should feel bound to require Col. McLeod to take possession of her.

Truly yours,

E. B. NICHOLS,
Commissioner.

[*Exhibit K.*]

(COPY)

INSTRUCTIONS TO H. B. WALLER.

BRAZOS SANTIAGO, March 13th, 1861.

SIR :—In carrying out the purposes of the power of attorney to act as my agent, you will keep always in view, that the pre-

servation of the property turned over by the U. S. government, is of the greatest importance to the State.

You will therefore, after filling the requisitions of Col. Ford, for such material and transportation as may be necessary for the efficiency of his command, at once proceed to make up a train of all military valuable stores, not needed for the use of the troops in this valley, and order it to proceed by the most practicable route to San Antonio. In case of difficulty with Mexico, the public property will be in danger from vagabond forays, organized on the other side of the river for plunder, like the late one of Cortina. The reinforcements to enable Col. Ford, to repel such assaults, must come from San Antonio and beyond. That point, would therefore, be the proper rendezvous, and the transportation and military stores would be both secure and available at that place. In addition to these reasons, the Quarter Master's depot at San Antonio will furnish ample and safe storage for all the property.

[Signed]

E. B. NICHOLS,
Commissioner.

[*Exhibit L.*]

GALVESTON, March 15th, 1861.

MR. J. C. HARRIS, Manager,
S. S. S. Co., New Orleans,

SIR:—I had this pleasure last, at Brazos Santiago, on the 5th, inst., when it was believed the officers in command of the U. S. troops at Fort Brown, would not observe the agreement between Gen. Twiggs and the Texas Commissioner, and at the moment the rumor of Gen. Twiggs, having been stricken from the roll of Army officers and disgraced, was read to me from the Delta; but, as matters did not terminate as seriously as I then anticipated, I did not require Lieut. Col. McLeod to arrest Capt. Smith, who I hope meant no disrespect to Texas.

Important dispatches I forwarded by Capt. Smith on his previous voyage, have never reached their destination, so far as I know. One was to Col. Hebert of your army, and another to the Texas delegation, at Montgomery. I have had the services of your steamer Rusk, for I believe, 28 days, at \$500,00 per day, for which I will settle with you in due time. I could not carry out the object of my mission to the Rio Grande, without chartering, rather requesting, Capt. Smith of the Rusk, to char-

ter his ship to the United States, as her charter party, sent you by Capt. Smith. Maj. Porter, assured me, that he was provided with cash to pay the charter at Key West. You will observe that the charter provides for the payment to be made to Capt. Smith, or to your authorized agent.

You will, therefore, give the necessary directions respecting it. Trusting that my action will meet your approval,

I am, very respectfully,

E. B. NICHOLS,

Commissioner.

[*Exhibit M.*]

OFFICE OF THE SOUTHERN STEAMSHIP Co., }
NEW ORLEANS, 18th March, 1861. }

E. B. NICHOLS, ESQ.,

Commissioner and Financial Agent

of the State of Texas:

DEAR SIR:—Your favors, 5th and 15th, inst., are at hand. I am pleased to know that the expedition to Brazos has terminated so favorable for the State of Texas. I regret however, that you should have counselled Capt. Smith, to charter the Gen. Rusk for the purpose of conveying troops to Florida, as I fear it may be construed by parties not understanding the case, as a willingness on my part to aid in reinforcing Federal garrisons. If however, as you state, it was part of your policy, thus to dispose of U. S. troops, I am content, and trust should any question of my action in this case arise, you will put to rest any imputations that may be cast upon my fealty to the South.

I have now to notify you that the State of Texas is charged on the books of the Southern Steamship Company, with 28 days service of steamer Gen. Rusk, from morning of 16th February, to night of 15th March, at \$500 per day, - \$14,000 00
With towing Schooner Shark to Brazos, - - 500 00
“ 250 bbls coal, - - - - - 250 00
\$14,750 00

Respectfully yours,

[Signed]

J. C. HARRIS.

Manager.

[Exhibit N]

*THE STATE OF TEXAS in Account with E. B. Nichols,
Commissioner and Financial Agent.*

1861.	DEBITS.	VOU.	
Feb. 13.	To paid Fiquet & Bouvet's bill,	1	\$ 83 50
"	" J. H & J. N. Marks,	" 2	1,248 70
"	" James Connoly & Co.,	" 3	4,478 40
"	" State La., bill caps,	" 4	50 00
15.	" E. H. Letchford & Co.,	" 5	1,570 00
18.	" J. C. Robertson,	" 6	10,000 00
"	" W. Richardson,	" 7	11 75
20.	" A. Blum & Bros.,	" 8	63 00
27.	" Ladd & Emory,	" 9	354 63
"	" J. W. Franks,	" 10	79 50
"	" E. L. Ufford,	" 11	166 50
"	" E. B. Nichols & Co.,	" 12	58 71
"	" Antonio Morgan's	" 13	38 75
"	" A. Blum & Bros.,	" 14	196 80
"	" E. B. Nichols & Co.,	" 15	505 47
"	" G. Opperman & Co.,	" 16	611 50
"	" Block & Dean's,	" 17	581 02
"	" Thos. Ellis',	" 18	113 00
"	" John Wescott's,	" 19	34 50
"	" Anton Miller's,	" 20	14 00
"	" A. Ball's,	" 21	24 00
"	" Lippman Kopppe,	" 22	141 00
"	" H. Rosenberg,	" 23	500 00
"	" Von Harten & Nieboun	" 24	150 54
28.	" J. T. Ware's,	" 25	1,545 67
"	" Gustave Jenney's,	" 26	140 20
"	" F. Hitchcock & Co.,	" 27	49 75
Mar. 2.	" Geo. Schneider,	" 28	29 45
"	" Briggs & Yard,	" 29	228 40
"	" A. Blum & Bros.,	" 30	40 00
"	" "	" 31	83 25
"	" H. C. L. Aschoff,	" 32	30 20
"	" "	" 33	87 40
"	" "	" 34	145 20
"	" L. H. Wood & Co.,	" 35	258 45
"	" "	" 36	101 75
"	" E. B. Nichols & Co.,	" 37	63 88

Mar. 16.	To J. Buckley's	"	38	139 50
"	" C. L. Beisner's	"	39	50 75
"	" Howard & Burkhardts,	"	40	378 50
"	" Root & Davis,	"	41	180 75
"	" E. L. Ufford's,	"	42	28 50
"	" C. Angelini,	"	43	14 25
"	" W. Kennedy,	"	44	2,000 00
"	" Texas Telegraph Co.,	"	45	3 35
"	" C. Neederhoefer,	"	46	20 60
"	" Shergory's,	"	47	60 25
"	" A. Champion,	"	48	120 00
"	" N. Champion,	"	49	20 00
"	" Steamer Neptune,	"	50	108 00
"	" J. P. Davis,	"	51	1,037 02
"	" T. W. Bunker, pilotage,	"	52	69 00
"	" " services,	"	53	50 00
"	" Col. J. S. Ford,	"	54	300 00
"	" Lieut. Col. H. McLeod,	"	55	10 00
"	" H. B. Waller,	"	56	3,000 00
"	" W. W. Reynolds,	"	57	3,000 00
"	" " "	"	58	1,000 00
"	" Balance ac't. Leon Smith,	"	59	962 67
"	" Adj't. Love, for Col. Ford,	"	60	900 00
"	" Kaufman & Klaener's,	"	61	30 25
"	" Lieut. Col. McLeod,	"	62	30 00
"	" Capt. Geo. Patterson,	"	63	75 00
"	" Armstrong & Bros.,	"	64	19 00
"	" Amr. Telegraph Co.	"	65	17 20
18.	" C. E. Thompson, Coms.,	"	66	5 00
"	" Anton Miller's drayage,	"	67	17 00
"	" Southwestern Express Co.,	"	68	2 50
"	" T. B. Stubbs & Co.,	"	69	111 61
19.	" G. H. & H. R. R. Co's.,	"	70	876 50
"	" T. C. Shearer & Co.,	"	71	2,172 16
"	" E. S. Woods,	"	72	99 42
"	" J. P. Davis,	"	73	11 00
"	" S. T. Fontaine,	"	74	10 00
"	" James Connoley & Co.,	"	75	706 01
"	" Schooner Shark, 1 mo.,	"	76	925 00
"	" D. Neill,	"	77	143 75
"	" C. L. Beisner,	"	78	100 00
23.	" E. B. Nichols,	"	79	408 00
"	" J. C. Harris, Manager,	"	80	14,905 40
"	" Diana's bill trans. troops,	"	81	86 00

Mar. 23.	To B. B. B. & C. R. R. Co.	" 82	174 00
"	" L. M. Hitchcock,	" 83	300 00

\$58,556 81

March 23.	To balance due in cash,	3,209 16
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1861.	CREDITS		DOL. CTS.
Feb. 13.	By Cash from Citizens Bank, N. O.,	-	\$ 10,000 00
"	" E. B. Nichols, endorsement La. State Bank,	-	10,000 00
"	By Cash from W. H. Leitchfield & Co., N. O.,	-	1,570 00
"	By Cash from Jas. Connolly & Co., N.O.	-	2,500 00
21.	" Wm. Hendley & Co.,	-	500 00
"	" Mr. Mahant Gilbert,	-	500 00
"	" J. S. Sellers,	-	500 00
22.	" Kauffman & Keamen,	-	250 00
28.	" J. C. Kuhn,	-	1,000 00
"	" Dean Randle & Co.,	-	500 00
"	" R. & D. G. Mills,	-	1,500 00
"	" H. Rosenberg,	-	500 00
"	" J. T. Ware,	-	500 00
"	" Ladd & Amory,	-	354 63
"	" Briggs & Yard,	-	228 40
"	" B. A. Shepherd & Co.,	-	1,000 00
"	" Ball. Hutchings & Co.,	-	1,000 00
"	" L. H. Wood & Co.,	-	360 20
"	" J. P. Davie,	-	1,037 02
"	" B. H. Shepherd, Agt.	-	108 00
"	" J. M. Brown, Prest,	-	876 50
"	" M. Kennedy,	-	2,000 00
"	" A. Jameson,	-	925 00
23.	" for J. C. Robertson, Chair.	-	2,258 50
"	" J. C. Harris, Manager,	-	14,905 40
"	" B. B. B. & C. R. R. Co.,	-	174 00
"	" L. M. Hitchcock,	-	300 00
	By Balance,	-	3,209 16
			\$58,556 81

E. B. NICHOLS,
Commissioner.

AUSTIN, March 23rd, 1861.

Report }
No. 5. }

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

OF

PUBLIC SAFETY.

COMMITTEE ROOM, }
March 22nd, 1861. }

TO HON. O. M. ROBERTS,

President of the Convention :

The committee on Public Safety beg leave to report to the Convention, that they found it absolutely necessary to go to Galveston to distribute means for carrying on the enterprizes they had set on foot, to obtain the Federal property for the State, and being authorized by the Convention to hold their sessions when and where, in their judgment the public safety demanded it, they made arrangements to adjourn to meet at Galveston, Some of the committee, when they left home not anticipating the action of the Convention, in requiring them to remain in session, did not provide means for defraying such expenses. The committee, however, were relieved by Dr. — Simms, who generously and patriotically tendered to the committee the use of four hundred dollars. The committee accepted the amount for the use of the committee. When the committee reached Galveston, they received from their financial agent, Gen. E. B. Nichols, the sum of \$10,000. A full account of the debits and credits of the committee have been rendered.

They beg leave to state, that several of the committee being without means for their expenditures for the reason before stated, the chairman of the committee advanced to some of them, such

sums as appears in said account annexed to their names respectively. It is to be hoped that the amounts expended, will not be found extravagant, when it is understood that the movements could not go on without money.

The committee are confident of having obtained the Federal property amounting to near three millions of dollars, at a cost of less than \$75,000, all told. When the Convention adjourned the 4th of February, the committee having been required to keep a record of all their proceedings, they retained the Secretary of the Convention, R. T. Brownrigg in their service, who was, during the whole recess of invaluable service to the committee, and the committee cannot too strongly commend to the Convention the propriety of making to him fair and liberal compensation. They also, retained the Sargeant-at-arms, B. F. Durham; the committee found their labors ample in the discharge of their duties as such, and that they could not go on errands, serve notices, attend the post office and various other duties in person. They therefore retained the sergeant-at-arms, who with the Secretary, went with the Committee to Galveston. The Committee take this occasion to say, Mr. Durham, gave prompt and efficient attention to the demands of the committee at all times. The Committee think the thanks of the Convention, and especially of the Committee are due to Gen. W. Austin, for his liberality, kindness and courtesy, in furnishing the committee a room for the transaction of business, during their stay at Galveston, free of charge.

The Committee, as will be seen by their report of receipts and disbursements, have now on hand the sum of two thousand two hundred and fifty-eight dollars and fifty cents, and as they received the same from Gen. E. B. Nichols, and it is not yet certainly known when the State will refund to him, they herewith submit the following resolution, and ask for its adoption:

Resolved, That the chairman of the committee on Public Safety, be required to pay over the balance in his hands, to-wit: the sum of two thousand two hundred and fifty-eights dollars and fifty cents, to Gen. E. B. Nichols, Financial agent of the State of Texas, to be placed by him as a credit on his account against the State of Texas.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

JOHN C. ROBERTSON,
Chairman of Com. Public Safety.

Report }
No. 6. }

H. E. McCULLOCH'S MISSION

TO THE

NORTH-WEST FRONTIER.

COMMITTEE ROOM, }
March 14th, 1861. }

TO HON. O. M. ROBERTS,

President of the Convention :

The committee on Public Safety instruct the undersigned to report through you to the Convention, that on the 5th day of February, 1861, they elected Col. Henry E. McCulloch, Military Commander and Commissioner, with the rank of Colonel of Cavalry, whose powers and authority will fully appear by the following commission and instructions.

COMMITTEE ROOM, }
February 5th, 1861. }

TO COL. HENRY E. McCULLOCH,

*Sir :—*You are hereby appointed by the committee on Public Safety, holding their authority from the Convention of the people of Texas, lately in session in the city of Austin, as Commissioner, with the military rank of Colonel of Cavalry, with instructions and authority to raise and employ a sufficient force and proceed without delay to negotiate with the respective commanders of the various military posts, from Fort Chadbourne including Camp Colorado, Camp Cooper and Fort Belknap, to Red River, for the delivery to you, as Commissioner in behalf of the people of the State of Texas, of all and every species of property—Quartermaster's property stores, Commissary's property and stores, Ordnance and ordnance stores, Medical and Hospital

stores and every other species of property or articles belonging to the United States, within the State of Texas, within said limits, and if peaceable possession of the same cannot be obtained, then to seize the same in the name and for the benefit and future defence of the people of Texas.

You will make and return to this committee, or other authority, representatives of the people of this State, a full and fair inventory of all property so received or taken, and continue to hold possession of the same until otherwise instructed, in such manner as to guard against its re-capture by Federal troops, Indians or Abolition marauders, subsisting the force under your command upon the supplies so taken, and protecting the lives and property of all citizens endangered in consequence of disarming the garrisons herein named until otherwise instructed. Should you deem it advisable to retain any portion or all of the Federal troops now in your district in the temporary service of the State, you can do so, promising them that Texas will use her best endeavors to get them into the army of the Southern Confederacy, with the military rank they now hold in the army of the United States.

You are especially to employ the arms, ammunition and other property, while in your possession, so as to be most conducive to the benefit of the people of Texas, and as it is advisable to avoid the effusion of blood, you will employ a force abundantly sufficient to render resistance by the Federal troops useless, you will pursue the same prudent course after getting possession of said property, so as to guard against all hazards of its re-capture by any force whatever.

You are further authorized to accept any military force which may be tendered to you, or to appoint officers to raise such force to enable you to carry out the foregoing instructions. You are instructed in your military operations to be governed by the army regulations of the United States of America, and the articles of war, except in cases manifestly inapplicable, and you are required in your operations to report the same to the committee on Public Safety as often as expedient. You will address J. C. Robertson, Galveston, Texas, informing him at what point he shall direct any communication to yourself, and any communication you may wish to make to him by the 27th February, 1861. You will address to Galveston, and after that time, you will address him at Austin.

If any officer, non-commissioned officer, or private should be guilty of disorderly or disobedient conduct, or intemperance, so

as to render him, or them, unfit or inefficient for the service, you are authorised and required to discharge such.

JNO. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman Committee of Public Safety.

[Attest.]

R. T. BROWNRIGG,

Secretary to the Committee.

The following additional instructions to Col. Henry E. McCulloch, were afterwards adopted by the committee and sent by express to him:

Should you deem it advisable to retain any portion or all of the Federal troops in your district, in the temporary service of the State, you can do so. In case any or all of them should express a desire to depart the country peaceably, then you may permit them to do so upon such terms as will not dishonor them, and as will insure the public safety and in such way as will insure safety to their persons and private property.

Should you find the Federal property hereinbefore referred to in the possession of any other person or persons than an officer of the United States army you will demand and receive and take charge of the same in like manner as if received and demanded from a United States officer, observing your instructions in that behalf.

JNO. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman Committee of Public Safety.

[Attest.]

R. T. BROWNRIGG,

Secretary to the Committee.

They further report that Col. H. E. McCulloch at once started to the frontier on his mission, and the committee feeling the necessity of furnishing Col. H. E. McCulloch, Col. John S. Ford and Col. Ben McCulloch, with money to enable them to carry out successfully, their respective enterprises to which they had been appointed; on the 12th day of February they adjourned to Galveston, and on the 18th day of February, the committee sent by express, to Henry E. McCulloch, by one of the committee, J. M. Norris, the sum of six thousand dollars. The committee will at an early day, report separately, what they have done with regard to raising and disbursing money.

The committee have received by express, the accompanying

documents from Henry E. McCulloch, which will show what he had done in regard to his mission up to the 1st day of March.

HEAD QUARTERS,
Camp Colorado, Feb., 25th, 1861. }

HON. O. M. ROBERTS,

President of the Convention,

Sir: Being with my command in an unorganized county on the day of election for the ratification or rejection of the secession Ordinance, I ordered elections to be held in the companies of my command, then near this place, and instructed the officers to conform as near as practicable, to the laws respecting the same, enjoining strictly the great necessity of accepting none but legal votes, and herewith transmit you the returns as handed me by them, and although not legally held, respectfully ask that they may be counted and credited to the respective counties to which they belong.

I had not the satisfaction of voting, being too much engaged at the time in my negotiations with the commanding officer of this post to spare the time, and while it was a disappointment to me, in not being able to put my name among the voters, I have no fears but that I will be sufficiently identified with the movement to be able at all times and under all circumstances to be properly understood as the ardent friend of the movement.

I have the satisfaction to be able to say to you, that my negotiations here with Capt. E. Kirby Smith, of the Second Cavalry, in command of this post, was of the most kind and agreeable character, and although I have succeeded with him, in making an arrangement much more beneficial to Texas than that agreed upon by the commissioners at San Antonio, with Gen. Twiggs, I could not think for a moment of holding a truly Southern man and warm friend of our State, to an agreement that would have placed him in the eyes of his fellow-officers, in a position so different from theirs, and although I do not feel that the action of the Commissioners at San Antonio is binding upon me, I have, without hesitation, placed the negotiations with Capt. Smith on the same terms, asking nothing more, requesting and requiring nothing less. I desire here to speak of Lt. Jewfer and Surgeon Alexander, of this post, as gentlemen of Southern feelings, with whom my intercourse has been pleasant and business agreeable. I will leave for Fort Chadbourn tomorrow with my command, leaving Capt. Frost in command at

this point. I have been detained much longer than I expected in getting to and at this place, owing to the great scarcity of arms and horses in this upper country (from which the Indians have stolen so much.) I have found it much more difficult to raise a force than I, or the gentlemen from this section of the country in the Convention expected, and if I had been resisted, would have had to contend, with less chances of success than would have been warranted by a prudent regard for the lives of our troops; but I come here without provisions or money to support my command with, and would have been compelled, under the circumstances, to have risked much in order to have procured the necessaries of life. The commissary stores taken here are sufficient for one company three months, and there is a fine lot of medical and hospital stores on hand, as well as all other things appertaining to the service except forage, arms and ammunition, of which there is scarcely any except ball cartridges, which do not suit our arms, and all of which is much needed in the service at this time.

I have taken every care, necessary for the interest of the State, in receiving the public property here, and shall place it all in the hands of the best men I have been able to get among strangers, earnestly hoping that nothing will be permitted to go to waste or be extravagantly-used. The citizens of Brown county and other counties adjoining, offered to accompany me to the place and aid me in its capture, if necessary, and as I found that my command here would not reach two hundred men, I accepted the services of some of them, and will report their rolls to the committee or Convention at an early day.

I regret the unauthorised move made upon Camp Cooper by some of our friends in that section, but as it was surrendered to Col. Dalrymple, of the State troops, it will possibly be regarded in the eyes of the world as legitimate, and as it is in his hands I may not find it necessary or advisable to take possession of it, but shall write to him at once, urging him to have a strict regard to the interest of the State in the occupation of the Fort and the use of the property taken by him.

When I commenced this letter I only intended to forward the election returns, but have made it so very lengthy that it might answer for a skeliton report.

Most Respectfully,
your ob't ser'vt,

H. E. McCULLOCH,

Com. & Col. Commanding north-western frontier of Texas.

HEAD QUARTERS,
Camp Colorado, Feb. 26, 1861. }

TO HON. J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety :

Under the commission and instructions received from your committee, I sent orders from Austin on the 5th and 6th instants to Captains Thos. C. Frost, R. B. Holly, J. B. Berry, H. A. Hamner and D. C. Cowan, to raise one hundred men, each, and also wrote to Captains Harrison and Ross, who were, at the time, in service under orders from Gen. Houston, requesting, if agreeable to them, that they would co-operate with me in our service on the frontier, and on the 11th, left Austin myself for this place, via Belton, Gatesville, &c., which route I took in order to hurry the companies into service, and reached the county seat of Brown county on the 17th day of this month, where I remained, keeping a constant watch on the movements here, through trusty reliable citizens, who were not suspected until the morning of the 22nd, when I left for this place in advance of the companies of Captains Frost, Holly, Berry and a citizen force under Lt. Cunningham, amounting in all, to less than 200 men, and instructed to advance cautiously to a point within six miles of this place, then to await further orders, intending to visit the post alone, and as commissioner, make a peaceable demand of the surrender of the post, coupled with the offer of temporary service to the officers and men, and then, if the surrender was not agreed upon, to attack and seize the place next morning at day-break. On reaching the post alone, at 4 o'clock, P. M., I called on the commanding officer, Capt. E. Kirby Smith, of the Second Cavalry, and under my instructions demanded a surrender of *all* the *arms, horses, Ordnance, Quarter Master's property and Commissary Stores, Medical and Hospital Stores, and all other property of every kind and character, at this post, belonging to the United States Government, under his charge, and the charge of his officers and in the hands of his men, at the same time offering him and them the position in our service, with the pledges I was authorised to make under my instructions, respecting their incorporation into the army of the Southern Confederacy, which service Capt Smith declined, on the grounds that he had already tendered his own services to his native State (Florida,) and did not feel at liberty to act until he heard whether they were accepted. Lt. Jewfer and Doctor Alexander declined for the present, feeling that their allegiance was due to Maryland and Kentucky first, if they seceded, but each one expressing attachment to the South, and both saying*

that they would eventually enter the army of the Southern Confederacy, in the event their States did not secede, or return to citizen life. Capt. Smith expressed himself in the most plain and unmistakable terms as the friend of the South and of Texas, and said that there had been no time since the first State seceded, that he would have obeyed an order to have carried his command out of Texas, to be used against Texas, or the South ; but would, on receiving such an order, have thrown up his commission and marched his command, at all hazards, to the aid of the seceding State, if compelled to act in the matter on either side, and at the same time refusing to deliver up the arms, horses and equipments in the hands of his men, upon the grounds that such a surrender was disgraceful to a soldier, but agreed, without hesitation, to the delivery of all other property under the demand, except a sufficient quantity of provisions, ammunition, transportation &c., to enable him to get peaceably out of Texas, via San Antonio and the coast.

Feeling an unwillingness to see the arms and horses, in the hands of his company, carried out of Texas by the soldiers of the United States army, without knowing whose hands they were to fall into after he should resign, and knowing that Texas needed them much, and that they *might* be used against her or the Southern seceding States, I could not agree to his carrying them out of the country, and we finally agreed that he should have the use of his horses and arms, transportation &c., to the coast of Texas, when *all of them*, (*horses, arms and all*,) were to be delivered to an agent or commissioner appointed to receive them for the benefit of Texas ; but before we had gotten through the arrangements of the papers for the delivery of the other, and the evacuation of the post, we received the circular of the commissioners, Messrs. Maverick, Devine and Luckett, of San Antonio, and the order of Gen. Twiggs, to deliver up the property according to the same, and though I do not think that any such an arrangement ever ought to have been agreed to upon our part, I did not for a moment, feel that I ought to hold a true Southern man and warm friend of Texas, bound to a negotiation so different from that required by his fellow-officers in another part of the same State ; that it would have enabled them to accuse him, of a want of proper attachment for the service and its *honor* in which he had been so long engaged of cowardice, and hence the arrangement for the surrender of this post, its property and the removal of the troops from the State, has been put upon the same footing of the agreement of the commissioners and Gen. Twiggs, asking nothing more, requiring

nothing less. The subsistence taken here is about sufficient to supply one hundred men for three months. A very small supply of forage, no ammunition except cartridges, for Sharp's rifle, Colt's revolvers &c., none of which are very useful to us, but would be, if we had the guns and pistols carried away from here by the troops. There is a large supply of Quarter Master stores of various kinds, much of which has been in use, and as there are but few tents in it, will not be of much use to us in our service at this time. Among the company property turned over by Capt. Smith, there are a few (5 or 6) Sharp's carbines, that have been in service, but are still serviceable, and over 50 sabers that I suppose might be of service to Texas Rangers in a snake country, and will, perhaps, be of service to Texas, should she raise a regular army. Proper invoices of all the articles taken will be returned as soon as practicable, and in the meantime, all of it taken proper care of, that is not necessarily used in the service of the country.

Throughout the whole of our negotiations and intercourse, Capt. Smith has shown the high tone noble bearing of soldier, and the first sensibilities of the gentleman, and my association with him and his officers in all our relations, official and personal, have been of the kindest character, and I hope that Texas and the Southern Confederacy will take the necessary steps to secure their services to Texas and the South, by absolving them, as far as possible, from their allegiance to the former Government, assuming the debts due them from the same, or all of them that desire to remain in the South and yet take steps to *disarm* those that are going North to use their arms against the South. It is reported here that Camp Cooper was attacked or besieged by citizen troops, and that it finally was captured or capitulated to Capt. Dalrymple, Aid-de-Camp to the Governor and Colonel Commanding the States troops under his orders, and as he is an officer of the State and responsible for the safe-keeping of the property, I shall leave it in his hands for the present, requesting him, by letter, to take care of it until I can have a conference with him respecting it, after I have arranged matters at Fort Chadbourne, to which place I go on to-morrow, with the companies of Captains Holly and Berry, leaving Capt. Frost in command of this place, with only a portion of a company, with directions to fill it up as soon as practicable, and give all the protection he can to this portion of the frontier. No one could have had a correct idea of the difficulties of raising men hastily on this frontier until they had seen it tried. The people here have been so long and so much harrassed by the Indians and

have lost so many horses, time and means by them, that they cannot now mount more than every 3rd or 4th man on an efficient horse, and when they are mounted 'tis very difficult to get arms to fight with, and unless something is done to arm the citizens, or place an efficient force to protect them against the marauding Indians, the frontier must be broken up, even worse than it is now, and although I have seen but little of it yet, and not the worst by far. I have seen many vacant houses and farms compared to the number of settlers in the country, and although far from my own home, (which, thank God, is secure from these dangers,) among a people almost all strangers to me, my heart is often made to ache at the devastation I see in the country, and the truthful tales they tell me of their sufferings and losses, and I would feel that I had shamefully failed to do my duty to them and to you, as your commissioner, if I did not urge upon you in the strongest possible manner, the *great great* necessity of giving full and ample protection to the frontier at every hazard, and at no odds what cost. I am mustering the troops under my command into the service, subject to the further order of the Convention, and can get up a sufficient force and keep it here for from three to five months, which will give time to replace them with more permanent volunteers, which I think should be ordered out for twelve months; and I have in every instance, when I have mustered a company into service, promised that those of them who desired to remain in the more permanent service when established, should have the preference, and I hope that these pledges will be redeemed by the Convention.

It is very necessary that I should have some funds at an early day, to enable me properly to get along with the service, as I started out without a dollar. I have been compelled to contract a few debts, amounting so far, to less than \$1000, which I have promised to pay at an early day, and hope the necessary means will be sent me to do so, and use whenever necessary in the service.

I have appointed a Regimental Quarter-Master and Commissary in the same person—requiring him to perform both services; and shall have to appoint Assistant Surgeons to take charge of the Hospitals, Medicines, &c., at the different posts to secure the property and administer to the sick, if they have any; and may have to appoint another Quarter-Master and Commissary at Fort Chadbourn, as I find but few, if any, of the subaltern officers in the command, qualified for that service. I shall be as economical in all things, in the service as possible, to be

efficient, but I must have the necessary aid in men and funds to do good service and protect the interest of the service and the country.

I shall look forward with much interest to the establishment of a permanent Government, and a more permanent service on the frontier, as a harbinger of peace to the country, and my permit to return to the bosom of my family, at my own private peaceful home; and it may be as well for me to say now as at any other time, that I have not entered the service for place or position, but to aid in the establishment of a permanent Government for Texas and the South, and the moment that can be done, I shall feel that I am through with my work. I have neither Adjutant-Sergeant, Major or Clerk, and hence I keep no copies of my letters or this report, and as I am just out of paper respectfully and kindly ask you to have it copied for me and retain the copy for my future use.

Most Respectfully, &c.,

H. E. McCULLOCH,

Com. & Col. Commanding, north-western frontier of Texas.

MARCH 13th, 1861.

HON. J. C. ROBERTSON :

I herewith hand you a report sent by express from Camp Colorado. The express has been obtained by Capt. Frost, and as his command is weak, I have advised him to employ a citizen to carry it; and said to him that he must draw on the committee for the funds to pay for it, or direct the payment to be made by you at Austin; and if he sends men from his own company they will need the means of living, which I must also ask you to supply, and hope you will not fail to do; and here let me impress upon you again the great necessity of furnishing me funds to use, when I need money to carry out and perform my duty. I will be economical, and the funds will not be squandered or uselessly applied.

Will you have the kindness to let me hear from the committee and Convention by return of express.

I have had no time to look over or copy the report after writing it.

Respectfully, &c.,

H. E. McCULLOCH,

• *Com. & Col. Commanding, north-western frontier of Texas.*

FORT CHADBOURNE, TEXAS, }
 March 1st, 1861. }

TO HON. JOHN C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of the Committee of Public Safety :

I had hoped, when I left Austin, that I would have been able by this time, to have given a full and satisfactory report of the termination of my labors in the division assigned me, as far as the surrendering the Military posts was concerned within its limits, and regret that I have now to report additional prospects of delay.

Owing to a total deficiency of public transportation at this post and the impossibility of procuring any other, the troops here cannot march according to the agreement made by Gen. Twiggs, and your commissioners at San Antonio, Col. Morris as commanding officer and I as commissioner, have stipulated that he, with his command of one company of Infantry, should hold possession of the post until transportation could be procured from San Antonio, (for which we have both written) binding himself to keep all things in statu quo, except a sufficient quantity of subsistence for his command, and further, to furnish my command with subsistence until the evacuation of the post, which is to be immediately upon the arrival here of the necessary transportation. He seems to think and may finally contend that Texas is to furnish the transportation, while I am clearly of the opinion that the commissioners contemplated no such thing in their negotiations upon the subject, but as the circular is all the information I have respecting the negotiations of the committee, I would beg to learn, if possible, which of us is correct; and in case the United States Government fails to furnish the transportation what course would be pursued with regard to it. He seems "very anxious to go, but can't," very sorry he has to remain in my way and cause delay in my movements, "but can't help it," all of which I really think and see is the case, and I "can't say go," to any one who seems perfectly willing to do so, if he could of his own accord, without having it to say. I shall leave Capt. Holley's command near this, to take possession of the post whenever the regular troops evacuate it, and leave in a day or two with Capt. Barry's command for Camp Cooper, where I fear I shall have great trouble in ascertaining the amount of supplies on hand, as the officers were required to abandon the fort without rendering any account of the supplies on hand, and as it was surrendered to a State officer under the command of the Governor, feel a great delicacy in attempting to take possession of it at all, yet shall go and see what can be

done in relation to it. There is some ordnance here, some Medicine and Hospital stores and provisions I suppose for one hundred men four months, and no forage. This is a very eligible position for a post on the frontier, as a place of defence and as a supply post, and if it can be done, ought to be kept up. Capt. Baylor's command are returning by here in detachments, having had a long hard campaign into the Indian country. Most of them out of provisions and many of them almost destitute of clothes, and their horses nearly broken down. They have killed a few Indians, chased and taken property from others, and report plenty of them on the heads of Colorado and Brazos; but their horses, from the scarcity of grass, gave out, and they were compelled to return. You will see from the efforts of these men, how far the people on this frontier are willing to make sacrifices to protect the country against the Indians, and if men are willing to sacrifice so much time and means and undergo such hardships, must there not be a stern reality in the tales of suffering that go into the settlements. These men have done hard service and needed aid on arriving here, and I supplied them with provisions and sent them on home. Some time in December, a gentleman (Capt. Lowe, of Bosque,) was left here by a Ranging company sick in the Hospital, where he has been ever since; the officers of this post have shown him every kindness and attention, and he has been taken care of at their expense or that of their Government, which entitles them to our gratitude to the fullest extent, and to Capt. Wallace, who has not only shown his nobleness of heart in this instance, but in many similar ones, among which was his great friendship shown Capt. Callahan, on his retreat from Mexico, at Eagle Pass, and especially to his wounded men left at that place. There has been to-day another wounded Texan left in the Hospital here (Mr. Elijah Adawson, of Freestone county,) by Capt. John Komar, who was one of the persons composing Capt. Baylor's command, and the officers seem to take as much interest in him as if he were a relation; these things should serve to attach us to them as men of soul, and I am really sorry that they seem so tenacious about their allegiance to the Union or their unwillingness to serve one section of it against the other; that they do not express themselves more determined to enter the service of the Southern Confederacy. Lieutenant Cone, however, is an exception to this; he is a native of Georgia, has offered his services to her, and will go there as soon as relieved as Quarter-Master and Commissary of this post. I left Capt. Frost with his company in command, at Camp Colorado, on yesterday. Capt.

Burleson made me a formal tender of the services of his company, which I received, and directed him to occupy a position about midway between this place and Camp Colorado, below a direct line however, on Home Creek, and protect that portion of country. I had written to him on my way up here, to know if he would cooperate with me, and if so, to let me hear from him, and under a misapprehension of my letter, and his great zeal to get into the service of his seceding State, and render her some service, he committed an act of indiscretion, by arresting the Government express, opening the documents and detaining some of the arms and horses for a day or two, for which he has expressed great regret, and made explanations which has satisfied me, fully, that his motives were pure, and that it was for the good of the country, as he thought, that he acted in the matter, and from no other motive; and as he has entered the service of the Convention under my orders, abandoning that of the State, under Gov. Houston, I hope the Convention will permit me to retain him while the temporary service lasts. I have, as yet, received but the four companies into the service, and no one of them amounts to a full company, but all, except Capt. Burleson, have been authorised to fill up by recruits; his company was considered sufficiently large to occupy the position assigned him. Under the arrangements made by me, so far, no troops have been sent to the frontier from Cooper north to Red River, but I have learned that most of Col. Dalrymple's command is in that section, if that should be so, and there is no uncertainty about there remaining, I shall probably call out or accept of the services of no more troops until I receive further orders from the Convention; but if there seems to be any doubt about the command referred to remaining in the service until more permanent arrangements can be made, I will continue them if they will remain after discharged by Gov. Houston, or call out others. The companies I have called into the service, are subject, by their muster, to be discharged at any time by the Convention; but I have said to them, that I expected they would be retained from three to five months and be displaced by more permanent volunteers, in which service I feel satisfied you will give them preference over those who have not been in service. Capt. Holly, I learn, would not care to remain in the more permanent service, but Lieutenant Davidson, of his company, I think, will make a good officer, and could bring a good company into the field. Captains Frost and Berry will both make excellent commanders for permanent volunteers in our service, and deserve your consideration. I shall have to appoint a Quarter-Master

and Commissary here, as I find no Lieutenant in Capt. Holley's company who would be able to take hold and carry on the business at once, and there is no time now to learn men to do such duty, if others can be obtained that understand it, and as soon as I find some person that suits me, I shall appoint a Sergeant, Major and an Adjutant, to aid me in my duties. Let me urge you again, to furnish me with the funds necessary to pay for such things as I am compelled to have. I met the troops here which had been routed at Camp Cooper, and although they had capitulated with Col. Dalrymple, who was a State officer, I felt it my duty, in order to put the Convention's committee as near right as possible, and prevent the constituted authorities of Texas from blame, in consequence of the unauthorised action by a portion of her citizens at Camp Cooper, to enter into negotiations with them, as your commissioner, and put them as far as in my power, on the same footing with all the other troops under the agreement made by Gen. Twiggs and the commissioners at San Antonio, and while I have done this, and have, in every instance, since I received the circular of the committee, negotiated according to its provisions, as I understand it, I must, as one of your commissioners, differing with those who made the agreement with Gen. Twiggs, respecting the proper terms upon which these troops should have been permitted to leave the State, enter my solemn protest against the agreement, and assure you that in this portion of the field, more advantageous terms could, and would have been obtained ; and I hope the Convention will yet take steps to get them to leave their arms, &c, at the coast. - We have offered them the same rank in our service they hold in the other—they decline it, and prefer going out of the State. Where are they to go but to the northern or middle States, to serve under a Black Republican President, who threatens coercion ; and they "*our friends*," and refuse to leave their arms and equipments in our own State, where they know that we have *need of them*, and cannot purchase them with money on this continent ; deliver me from such "*friends*" as these, I say, under any and all circumstances ; and while I can see clearly how much the northern States, and possibly, the whole world, blame Texas for recinding the agreement made by her commissioners, and while I would dislike to do anything that would wound the pride or cast reflection on the commissioners, I would not permit the arms to go out of Texas in the hands of an organized army, who regard Lincoln as their President and Commander-in-Chief, and under whose orders, they will, of course, turn upon us and our friends of the South,

these very guns. Look at this matter, and for the sake of our common safety and self-protection, see if these "friends" of ours ought to be permitted to carry these weapons away with them. I have told the officers plainly, that if it were left to me alone, either as a commissioner or as an individual, that I would first offer them service in Texas and the South, upon liberal and fair terms, and then if they still said that Lincoln was their Commander-in-Chief, that I would *have their arms* before they left the State. Yes, and more, that if my *Government*, and my people, by her Convention, when re-assembled, agreed with me and concluded to act it out, I was ready to leave this portion of the field and meet them with such force as I could get, and compel them to give up the guns.

The people of Texas will be dissatisfied with this arrangement, and before many of these troops can get out of the country, Lincoln will be President; they his army, he hostile to us, they bound, as they believe, to obey orders, under these circumstances, their passage through and out of the country, might not be entirely safe and unmolested, and hence, if the Convention do not intend to require any change in the agreement with them in an official manner, it might be well to see that there are no mobs raised on the route down the country. I hope the committee will pardon me for intruding my opinins upon them, and that the commissioners will not think, for a moment, that I would do them wrong, but I feel deeply, the necessity of the course I suggest, and as a commissioner, differing with them in opinion, think it my duty to my State and people, to speak out openly in the premises. At the earliest practicable hour, I shall be pleased to learn at what time the men which I called into the service, may be expected to be relieved by more permanent volunteers, and whether they may expect any preference shown them in that service. As far as I have been able to judge of the people of this frontier, they are good men, and if provided with the necessary means, would defend the country against any and all its enemies; their service has been so irregular and under so many disadvantages, that they do not seem to understand the necessity of paying that attention to dicipline that the people do in some other portions of our State; but all that could be remedied by the selection of proper men to raise and command them, and in conclusion, I cheerfully say, that so far, I have had as agreeable service with them as I have usually had with our volunteers, and in no instance, has an order of mine been disobeyed by any one, as far as I know.

H. E. McCULLOCH,

Com. & Col. Commanding north-western frontier of Texas.

[A.]

CAMP COOPER, March 7, 1861.

TO CAPTAIN E. W. ROGERS,

Commanding Camp Cooper:

SIR: Under my instructions from the Convention of Texas, I demanded, "in the name of The People of the Sovereign State of Texas," the delivery to me of this post or camp, with all the arms, munitions of war, Quarter-master's property and stores, Commissary property and stores, ordnance, and ordnance stores, hospital, and hospital stores, medicine, and medical stores, and all other public property, of every kind and character, now in your possession or under your command, which lately belonged to the United States, and which was surrendered to Colonel W. C. Dalrymple, as a legal officer of Texas, by Captain Carpenter, of the United States Army, on the twenty-first day of February last.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. E. McCULLOCH,

Commissioner, and Colonel Commanding North-western Frontier of Texas.

[B.]

CAMP COOPER, Texas, March 9, 1861.

COL. H. E. McCULLOCH,

Commissioner, and Colonel Commanding troops on the North-western Frontier of Texas, by authority of the Convention:

SIR—Yours, of the seventh instant, requiring of me a surrender of the Post of Camp Cooper, with all the arms, munitions of war, Quarter-master property and stores, Commissary property and stores, ordnance and ordnance stores, hospital and hospital stores, medicine and medical stores, and all other public property, of every description, now in my possession, late of the Government of the United States, has been received, and contents carefully noted.

I received the command of the Post, of Colonel W. C. Dalrymple, the Commander-in-chief of the Texas Mounted Rangers, to whom it was surrendered, on the twenty-first of February last, in the name of the State of Texas, by Captain Carpenter commanding, then in the service of the United States Government.

Knowing that Colonel Dalrymple, in making the demand of the surrender of the Post and property of Camp Cooper of the Federal officers in command, was an act of pure motive, and a concurrent move with the Convention; and from the evidence before me I am satisfied that you are the proper person to receive the Post and property here, late of the Government of the United States, and now under my charge.

I will take pleasure in surrendering it to you, under your commission and authority by Convention lately held in Austin.

I am yours, very respectfully,

[Signed.]

E. W. ROGERS,

Captain Commanding Post.

CAMP COOPER, Texas, March 9, 1861.

To Hon. J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman Committee Public Safety:

Having reached this place on the night of the sixth instant, and finding Captain E. W. Rogers, of the State troops, in possession and command of the Post, under the order of Colonel W. C. Dalrymple, to whom it had been surrendered by Captain Carpenter, of the United States Army, on the twenty-first ultimo.

On the morning of the seventh I called on him, and demanded the surrender of the Post, with all the public property, of every kind and character, then of the same, which had been surrendered as above mentioned; which demand was promptly yielded to by Captain Rogers, as you will see, by reference to a copy of his letter, over mine, (marked A and B,) transmitted herewith.

The amount of subsistence on hand, here, is much less than I anticipated before my arrival; and though I am not able at this time to state, in this report, the exact amount, I do not suppose it will exceed a supply for one hundred men sixty days, and the bread rations not so long, even, as that.

There is a fair quantity of oats on hand, but they have been here so long that they have become somewhat musty from age, and the sacks so eaten by mice that the quantity cannot be ascertained until all of them are overhauled, re-sacked, or put in boxes and barrels, and weighed.

I presume that you have been informed, before this, that this place was surrendered to Colonel Dalrymple, of the Texas troops, by Captain Carpenter, of the United States Army, and that the latter marched out, with his command, as a conquered force, and hence no regular invoice was made of the public property on hand at the time of the surrender; which being the case, and having heard the officers who made the surrender say, that everything for which they were responsible to their government was on hand when the place was surrendered, and finding the post and property in anything but good condition, and many indications of waste and destruction, I have made inquiry as to the course pursued by the evacuating force while the citizen troops were investing the place, and the condition of the post and property at the time that Colonel Dalrymple or Captain Rogers, under his order, took possession of it on its evacuation, and learn, from citizens who were here during the whole time, and at the entrance of the State troops, that the doors of the different public store houses had been opened, and that the regular soldiery as well as all other persons that desired to do so, were permitted to take what they wanted to use, or destroy; and that several tents, with their contents, comprising the quarters of a portion of the troops, were burned, as well as a good deal of other property, by the regular troops, or others, before their evacuation of the post; and that the doors of all the public store houses, as well as officers and mens' quarters were open, and the whole post filled with persons, when the State troops entered the same.

Who these persons were, and how they came to be in the post, I leave to others, who were present, and whose business it may be made to account for the supposed deficiency of property, to say; and only allude to the above facts in order to account, as it were in advance, in part, for there being a much less quantity of supplies here now than I had really expected to find, from other reports I had received, of the amount that should be here; and at the same time to intimate to you, clearly, that the people, although they may have acted precipitately, have not, really, been the only despoilers about this post, and, while I would protect them from all unjust assertions, I am unwilling to shield them from proper censure, and, from reports, am constrained to conclude, that that portion of our people, or some of them, at least, that were in this vicinity, and at this post, at the time of its surrender, acted very improperly, at Belknap, by taking forage from the overland stage company, and at the station of the same company, within two miles of this place, by

taking, and using, all the hay that was put up for the animals of that line, without the consent of the same: and I probably would not here mention these facts, if I did not feel that the Convention ought to be put in possession of them, in order that they may, if they see proper, disavow any connection with this whole unauthorized movement, and, if advisable, publicly condemn the conduct of all persons who were engaged in it, and, if they think proper, in order to identify persons, call on Colonel Dalrymple, who was here in command at the time, for a statistical report of the whole transaction.

I have assigned Captain J. B. Barry to the command of this post, and appointed James H. Price, of Erath county, Assistant Quartermaster and Commissioner, with the rank of Lieutenant which appointment is necessary for the interest of the service, and I hope will be ratified by you, as well as all the appointments which I have made. Captain Barry has employed Doctor Little as surgeon for his company; of which I have approved, and put him in charge of the hospital here. Colonel Dalrymple is now in the field, with about two hundred men, intending, as I learn, to spend from forty to sixty days in the country, where the Indians are supposed to be.

The horses of my command are not able to perform much active service, nor will they be until grass rises in the spring. This may seem rather strange to you, as they have not been in service a month yet; but there was such poor crops raised in the section of country from which the men were called out, and the grass has been so bad through the winter, and these people have had so much service to perform in protecting their own homes, that the animals came into service in bad condition, and, having little or no forage for them, so far, they have not needed any, as a matter of course.

In traveling from Fort Chadbourne to this place, I saw a great many buffalo, and, in many places, they have been so abundant, that they have destroyed or eaten up all the grass; so much so that it is difficult to get any grass, about the watering places, that will answer the purposes of a small command for a night.

I cannot tell when I will be able to reach Austin, and make a full and satisfactory report to you, but shall do so as early as possible, as I am anxious to see matters take some tangible form, and some system of defence established for the permanent protection of this frontier; which can be done with Rangers, if placed under the command of energetic, persevering officers.

I see that Captain Mays's company is called out, for twelve months; Captain Rogers's for six months; Captain Harrison's for — months; and Captain Sublett's for three months; and these with the companies of Captains Frost, Burleson, Holly, and Barry, which I have received into the service, subject to the order of the Convention, will be sufficient for the temporary service until more permanent troops can be called into service, and put in the field: and I would respectfully recommend the continuation of the companies called out by Governor Houston, in the temporary service, in preference to calling others from their homes at this season of the year, as they seem to be efficient troops, or would be so if put to work properly; but it is very necessary to the interest of the service, and the protection of this frontier, that these commands (mine and Colonel Dalrympie's) should be consolidated, or placed under the command of some one, by the legal authorities; and the sooner it is done the better for the country. I have just been informed, by a citizen living near this Post, that, in looking after his stock within the last three weeks, (running down to within four days of this time,) that he has seen where five or six head of cattle, and several hogs, have been killed by the persons belonging to our State; and considering the vast number of persons that have been congregated about this post, and passing to and from the frontier, I am not surprised that it should be so, and only mention it to show you the recklessness with which things are done, and wrongs that the people of this portion have to submit to. As the troops under my command have just reached here, the charge does not apply to them; but, whether these depredations have been committed by "independent volunteers" or State troops, it should not be countenanced by any proper-thinking man, and should be stopped at once: and when I have the command of men, and can learn that they are guilty of such conduct, shall in all cases discharge them from the service.

The reputation of the service must and will be sustained by me, or I will have no troops.

Respectfully, etc.,

H. E. McCULLOCH,

Commissioner, and Colonel Commanding North-western Frontier of Texas.

The committee further report that the post, Camp Cooper, was obtained possession of by a combination of State troops and citizen soldiery. The following communication was received by one of the delegates of this Convention, which indicates how the movement was gotten up. It is true that it was done without any express authority emanating from this Convention, but it is clear from the facts, that the parties were prompted by patriotism, and that the Government property is there, subject to the order of this Convention.

WEATHERFORD, Jan. 31st, 1861.

HON. A. NELSON :

My Friend :—Ere this reaches you, I will be on my way to seize Camp Cooper and hold the same subject to the order of the Convention.

I am aware of the responsibility, but trust I will be sustained by the Convention. I would have been off three weeks sooner but for the want of co-operation here.

Hoping to hear from you while in Austin, I am,

Respectfully,

H. A. HAMNER,

[Attest.] R. T. BROWNRIGG,
Secretary to the Convention.

It is to be hoped that there will be no conflict of authority about the property at Camp Cooper, and it is believed now, there will be none, since Capt. Dalrymple has made his report to the President of this Convention.

[A]

HEAD QUARTERS, CAMP COOPER, }
February 23rd, 1861.

HON. O. M. ROBERTS,

President of the State Convention :

I have the honor to report to your honorable body, that the United States Military Post here, has been surrendered into my hands.

Having intelligence that the State of Texas, by a Convention

of the people, had virtually severed her connection with the General Government, and with the knowledge, that within a little more than two short weeks, that Government must be administered by men professedly hostile to the institutions of the South, and who could and most likely would displace the worthy commander and his officers at this Post, and put in command the direct Republicans, in which case a dangerous nucleus would be formed for any hostile movement against the State, either for coercion by the Government of the North or for plunder by Montgomery and other outlaws and their minions. I also found here, and arriving, a large number of armed citizens determined on the capture or destruction of the place. In the meantime the garrison, consisting of more than two hundred and fifty men, were making such preparations for defence as the means at hand would permit.

Having been tendered the command of all the forces assembled, I determined to interpose my authority and command and save, for Texas, the Post, prevent if possible the shedding of blood and all the calamities incident to a civil war.

Accordingly on the 19th inst., I made in the name of the sovereign State of Texas, a formal demand of surrender of the Post with all arms, munitions, animals and other property heretofore belonging to the Government of the United States, which was accordingly surrendered at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 21st instant.

Accompanying, are copies of the articles of stipulations and correspondence pertaining thereto.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

W. C. DALRYMPLE,
Aid-de-Camp to the Governor, and
Colonel Commanding.

(COPY.)

CAMP COOPER, TEXAS, }
February 18th, 1861. }

To the commanding officer of the State troops of Texas and other armed bodies of citizens encamped in the vicinity of this Post.

From various rumors which have reached me, I am led to infer that the object of your command is a hostile movement against this Camp. Having waited several days in the expectation of receiving from you a notification of your intention, I deem it my

duty to call upon you, to be informed as to the object of this assemblage.

Yours respectfully,

S. D. CARPENTER,

Capt. Infantry Commanding.

I certify that the above is a true copy of the original.

J. E. McCORD,

Adjutant Texas Troops.

(COPY.)

OLD COMANCHE AGENCY, NEAR CAMP COOPER, }

February 18th, 1861. }

CAPT. S. D. CARPENTER, U. S. A.,

Commanding Camp Cooper :

SIR :—In answer to your communication of this day, I have to say that the assemblage of soldiery here, has for its object the reduction of Camp Cooper.

The State of Texas having, by the action of a Convention of the people, virtually renounced her allegiance to the Government of the United States and being here in command of the State troops, and also in command of the citizen soldiery encamped in this vicinity, I shall in the name of the sovereign State of Texas demand within twenty-four hours a surrender of the Garrison under your command, with all arms, munitions and property of every description, heretofore belonging to the United States.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. DALRYMPLE,

*Aid-de-Camp to the Governor,
and Col. Commanding.*

OLD COMANCHE AGENCY, NEAR CAMP COOPER, }

February 18th, 1861. }

CAPT. S. D. CARPENTER, U. S. A.,

Commanding Camp Cooper :

SIR :—In the name of the sovereign State of Texas, I demand a surrender of your Garrison, with all arms, munitions, animals and other property heretofore belonging to the United States.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. DALRYMPLE,

Aid-de-Camp to the Governor, &c.

J. E. McCORD, *Adj't,*

COL. DALRYMPLE'S *Command, Texas Mounted Rangers.*

(COPY.)

CAMP COOPER, TEXAS,
February 19th, 1861. }

COL. W. C. DALRYMPLE,

Comd'g State Troops and Aid to the Governor :

SIR :—Your letter of the 18th inst., informing me that the armed body of men encamped in this vicinity were State troops, and armed citizens under your command has been received. I have also received your letter of this date, demanding in the name of the State of Texas, a surrender of this Camp. Until the reception of your first note I was satisfied from all the information I could obtain, that I was threatened with an attack by an unauthorized force, and accordingly took such measures as were necessary for my defence. My reply to your demand, notwithstanding it is made in the name of Texas, and by an officer holding a commission from its Governor, as commanding officer of the Federal troops stationed at this Camp, could be no other than an unqualified refusal.

But in the present agitated political condition of our country, I feel compelled to regard, in connection with this demand, and its refusal, the perilous consequences that must result to the whole nation.

The policy of the administration and the wisest statesmen of the land is to avert, if possible, the shedding of blood ; and while I have before me this fact, exemplified at Forts Sumpter and Pickens, and especially in the case of the Star of the West ; and also the fact, that the Arsenals throughout the South have been yielded to State authorities without a struggle. I do not feel justified to act from the promptings of a soldier.

It matters not that this Camp from its position is incapable of a prolonged defence ; it matters not that your force is now far superior in numbers to my own, and is daily increasing ; it matters not that by reliable information, I am positively assured that this whole community is arming for the purpose of retaining in the State, all the property of the Federal government now in Texas ; I would be actuated by the same motives which now control me in any event, provided, the consequences of my refusal to your demand were to be the inauguration of a civil war, that must eventually involve all the States in fraternal strife.

Guided then by a spirit of patriotism and loyalty to the Union, and by what I conceive to be the councils of the most enlightened statesmen of the nation, and also, by what I understand to be the policy of the General commanding the Department. After due consultation with the officers of my command,

I have determined to surrender this Camp to the State of Texas, and if you will submit to me the terms upon which you desire to receive for the State, the Camp and Federal property in my charge. I will give them an early consideration.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

[Signed]

S. D. CARPENTER,

Capt. 1st Infantry, Com'd'g Post.

OLD COMANCHE AGENCY, NEAR CAMP COOPER, TEXAS, {
February 20th, 1861. }

CAPT. S. D. CARPENTER, U. S. A.

Commanding Camp Cooper, Texas :

SIR:—Your letter of the 19th inst., in reply to mine of the 18th inst., and also in reply to my letter demanding the surrender of Camp Cooper has been received, by the hands of Lieut. Walter Jones.

Assuring you that I deplore, *deeply* deplore the distracted condition of our country—which makes the demand of your Post necessary at all, and not finding it in my breast, to ask terms that could be in the least degree humiliating to the manly pride and honor of the American soldier, and having had a conference with my officers, the accompanying articles of capitulation, marked "A" are prepared and I herewith submit them, with the hope that they will be acceded to by you.

I am sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. DALRYMPLE,

Aid de Camp to the Governor, and Col. Com.

J. E. McCORD, *Adj't.*

COL. DALRYMPLE'S *Command, Texas Rangers.*

[A]

ARTICLE 1. The Post at Camp Cooper shall be surrendered with all the arms, munitions, equipments and property of said Post belonging to the Government of the United States, to the State troops now under my command, on or before 10 o'clock, A. M., February 21st, 1861.

ART. 2. The officers will be permitted to march with all their arms and equipments, and transportation necessary thereto; the soldiers with their usual arms, that is to say, the Infantry with their fire-locks and accoutrements belonging thereto, the Cavalry with their usual equipments; with transportation, amu-

dition and subsistence necessary for the march of your command to San Antonio ; at which place the public arms and property are to be delivered to the State authorities of Texas, or in the absence thereof to the Chief Justice of Bexar county.

ART. 3. The Texas flag shall be hoisted on the parade ground at Camp Cooper upon the evacuation of said Post.

(COPY.)

CAMP COOPER, TEXAS, }
February 20th, 1861. }

COL. W. C. DALRYMPLE,

Commanding State Troops of Texas :

SIR:—Your communication of this date, submitting for my deliberation the terms upon which you demand the surrender of Camp Cooper, to the State of Texas, has received my attention.

I accede to the stipulations in the first and second articles proposed, and will accordingly evacuate the Camp on the 21st inst., marching my command to San Antonio, and deliver the arms, property, &c., to the authorities named therein.

With reference to the third article, I would remark, that it enters in no way into our present considerations, for after I have marched from this Camp, I cease to be responsible to my Government for what may transpire after that point.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

[Signed]

S. D. CARPENTER,

Capt. of Infantry, Com'd'g Post.

J. E. McCORD, *Adjutant.*

COL. DALRYMPLE'S *Command, Texas Mounted Rangers.*

The committee regret that they have not yet received an inventory of the property taken under Col. H. E. McCulloch's command, and also a statement of his expenditures. Should they not receive more complete reports from him, the committee will, in view of adjournment of the Convention at an early day, report an ordinance providing for Col. McCulloch to report to some department of the State.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, &c.,

JOHN C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of Committee on Public Safety.

Report }
No. 7. }

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

ON

PUBLIC SAFETY.

COMMITTEE ROOM, }
March 8th, 1861. }

TO THE HON. O. M. ROBERTS,

*President of the Convention of the People
of the State of Texas :*

The committee on Public Safety instruct the undersigned to report to the Convention, that on the 24th day of February, they were in session in the city of Galveston, that at that time the revenue cutter "Henry Dodge" was in that port in the service of the United States, under the command of Lieut. W. F. Rogers, of the United States Navy. The committee being assured, that Lieut. Rogers and his men on board of the Henry Dodge, there being twelve in number, were true to the cause of the South, they sought an interview with the commander on the subject of demanding possession of his cutter ; during the conference Lieut. Rogers exhibited to the committee, orders from the War Department at Washington, in which he was required, in the event any persons without authority from that Department, should undertake to get possession of his vessel, not to permit the U. S. flag to be dishonored, but to fight to the death, and should he find himself about to be overcome and his vessel about to be taken, he was ordered to blow it up. Lieut. Rogers also had orders to take his vessel at once to New York, and report himself to the Collector of that port. These orders the gallant Lieut. determined to disobey, as he regarded them as unfriendly to the South, and expressed himself ready to resign and hold possession of the Dodge for the State of Texas, when required to do so by the proper authority. Upon information received by the committee, it was found that on the first day of March, there would be due to the Commander and his men, two months pay

and that the United States government, through the Collector at Galveston, would pay them up on that day. The pay still due the crew, amounted to about nine hundred dollars. The committee knew that to take possession of the Dodge under such circumstances, this State would in honor, have to pay the crew, if the committee enlisted them under the State. The committee therefore concluded not to demand the vessel at that time, but to wait until the crew were paid off, and then demand and take possession of her. To this end, the committee issued instructions to Chas. McCarty of Galveston, to demand said Henry Dodge, on the 2nd day of March and if not surrendered to raise a force and take it, which instructions are submitted, marked "B."

The following is a list of the arms on board the Henry Dodge :

1 nine pounder on pivot ; 100 rounds of ammunition ; nine Maynard rifles ; one dozen Mississippi rifles ; two dozen boarding pistols ; one dozen cutlasses.

It will be seen by a communication hereinafter submitted that the Henry Dodge is now in the service of Texas, under the command of W. F. Rogers, with the commission of Captain, and that he is doing some service for the State.

The committee further report, that on the 24th February, A. M. Gentry, President of the Texas and New Orleans Railroad Company informed them that he then had a cargo of railroad iron lying just outside the bar at Galveston ; that if he landed it there he would be required to pay duties to the United States government, amounting to several thousand dollars, and that he preferred paying it to Texas. As a matter of public safety and to secure to Texas the money, the committee issued to A. M. Gentry, authority to land his iron anywhere on the coast of Texas he saw proper, but the committee required him to execute his bond payable to the State of Texas, which is herewith submitted, together with the authority to said Gentry, marked "C" and "D."

The result of this, will be seen by the communication hereinafter submitted from Gen. Sherman.

The committee further report, that the day after the committee adjourned at Galveston, three of the committee, Jas. J. Diamond, A. T. Rainey, and Jas. R. Armstrong, having their attention called to the probable necessity of a military defence of Galveston, and believing prudence dictated preparation for any emergency, executed to Gen. S. Sherman, authority to control the defence of said city, which being made known to the

committee, meets their entire approbation. A copy of this document is submitted, and also, a letter from the President of this Convention requesting Gen. Sherman to do the same thing, is also submitted, marked "E" and "F."

The committee, since the re-assembling of the Convention, have received a communication from Gen. S. Sherman, which will show the result of the acts of the committee in regard to the foregoing matters. By the same communication it will be seen that Gen. Sherman, also has taken into possession a U. S. schooner of 138 tons, which he says is a very fine vessel of her class. All of which is respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. ROBERTSON.

Chairman of Committee on Public Safety.

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

(Document marked "B.")

COMMITTEE ROOM, GALVESTON, }
TEXAS, Monday, Feb. 24th, 1861. }

TO CHARLES McCARTY,

SIR :—You are hereby authorized and required by order of the committee on Public safety, on the 2nd day of March next, to take possession of the U. S. Revenue cutter, "Henry Dodge," now in this bay and vicinity, or if the said action be inconvenient at that particular time, then as soon thereafter as may be practicable.

You will demand of the officer in command, the entire and unconditional surrender of said vessel, provided nothing shall be done calculated to wound the pride or honor of the officers and men aboard of said vessel. You will receive and take charge of the same and the munitions, arms, property of every description, &c., &c., except private property belonging to the crew on board said vessel.

You will, should the officer in command, place himself in a position to accept the same, put him, in command of said ves-

sel, under the authority of the State of Texas, with the rank of Captain and subject to the approval of the committee of Public Safety or the Convention of the people of the State.

You will see that proper receipts are given the officer in command, for the surrender of the vessel, &c., if the same be peaceably surrendered, and when placed by you in charge of any other person, you will take all necessary vouchers for your protection.

Should you meet with a refusal on the part of the officer in command of said vessel, you will proceed to take immediate and unconditional possession of said vessel, and with that view you will collect a force sufficient for said purpose to accompany you, under your command.

You will consult whoever you place in command of said vessel as to all necessary appointments under him, taking care to make none other, and will be particular not to promise permanent position of any character to any appointee under said commander.

By order of the Committee,
JOHN C. ROBERTSON,
Chairman of committee on Public Safety.

(Document marked "C.")

GALVESTON, TEXAS, }
Feb. 24th, 1861. }

To A. M. GENTRY:

In consideration of the execution of your bond to the State of Texas to pay the duties which may be demanded of you, on the cargo of iron now on the "Sangeen."

You are authorized by the committee of Public Safety to land the same at any point on the coast of the State of Texas, free from the payment of any duties to the "old Federal government," and should such duties be demanded of you by the old government, you are forbidden by the committee to pay the same.

Done at Galveston, this the day and date above written, by order of the committee.

JOHN C. ROBERTSON,
Chairman of committee on Public Safety.

[ATTEST]
R. T. BROWNRIGG, *Secretary to Com.*

(Document marked "D.")

GALVESTON, Feb. 25th, 1861.

KNOW all men by these presents, That the Texas and New Orleans Railroad Company is hereby indebted to the State of Texas, (in its sovereign and independent capacity) in such sum of money as will amount to the duties which have heretofore been levied upon railroad iron, by the late Federal government, whenever the State or its legitimate officers of the revenue shall demand the same, for a cargo of rails imported on the ship or vessel called the Sangeen, from Liverpool, in Great Britain, now lying outside the harbor of Galveston, and being discharged and received by said railroad company, by virtue of an order given to the President of said company, and executed by John C. Robertson, chairman of the committee of Public Safety, and verified by R. T. Brownrigg, Secretary of said committee, and dated Galveston, Feb. 24th, 1861, and in accordance with the 3rd section of an ordinance, passed by the Congress of the (Southern) Confederate States of America, at the city of Montgomery, Feb. 18th, 1861; said cargo, consisting of 501 tons, 12 cwts., 2 qrs., and 13 lbs. Invoice price, £5 5s 0d, per ton.

In testimony of which, said company has caused its President and Secretary to execute this bond.

A. M. GENTRY.

President T. & N. O. R. R. Company.

CHAS. M. CONGREVE, *Treasurer.*

(Document marked "E.")

GALVESTON, TEXAS, }
Feb. 26th, 1861. }

GEN. S. SHERMAN:

DEAR SIR:—The undersigned in behalf of the committee of Public Safety, desire to make known to you, that said committee in their judgment, having discharged the duties immediately incumbent upon them, and provided in the best manner they have been able for the security of the State, and protection of its citizens, upon the happening of any contingency most likely to arise, and adjourned their sittings from this place to the city of Austin, having great confidence in your patriotism, which has so justly become a part of the history of our country, and

your zeal in behalf of the cause in which we are engaged, not knowing but what some pressing emergency might arise, requiring a military defence of your city or other duties of like character, and duly appreciating the condition your people might be placed in without some one to give direction to their energies, have confided to you the exercise of that trust ; therefore, feel yourself authorized by the committee, upon the happening of such emergency, and until you are relieved by some person duly appointed to do so, to do and perform in the premises, for defence and security only, whatsoever your good judgment may consider requisite, and to transmit, by express if need be, to the committee or Convention, at Austin, any information you may from time to time be in receipt of, that should be known at once.

Hoping no cause may arise for the exercise of the duties and powers herein conferred, we subscribe ourselves with great respect,

Yours, &c.,

JAS. J. DIAMOND,

A. T. RAINEY,

JAS. R. ARMSTRONG.

(Document marked "F.")

GALVESTON, TEXAS, }
Feb. 25th, 1861. }

GEN. SIDNEY SHERMAN :

DEAR SIR:—The committee of safety appointed by the Convention have, as I understand, made such arrangements, as they thought would subserve the interests of the State until the Convention shall have met and taken further action.

Should any emergency happen, which would require prompt action by the citizens of Galveston, in the mean time, I request that you should take the lead in it, in the absence of Gen. Nichols, and if he should be here, please consult with him in relation to it. I have no doubt that the Captains of your volunteer companies, will act with you in the matter. And should any intelligence arrive here, affecting our movements, or connected with the public safety, please to see that it is forwarded to the Convention.

I have no authority, and do not assume any, to make a formal appointment, but make this request, as I think some one should be here to look after our interests, &c.

I will call this subject to the attention of the committee or of the Convention, as soon as we meet and will write to you about it.

Yours, &c.

O. M. ROBERTS,

P. S. I feel assured, that should any such emergency arise the Convention would be pleased to have the benefit of your prudence and patriotism.

O. M. R.

(Letter from Gen. Sherman.)

GALVESTON, March 6th, 1861.

TO THE HON. J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman of Committee of Safety :

SIR :—Agreeable to instructions received from your committee, I have taken charge of the guns and other material brought from Brazos Santiago, by the steamer Rusk and the schooner Shark, consisting of two siege guns, 24 pounders ; 4 battery guns, 24 pounders ; two brass 24 pound howitzers, without carriages ; two brass guns, iron mounted ; two 8 inch mortars, with eds ; also about 300 round shot and canister for the same.

I am now having made, under the superintendence of Lieut. Stevens, late of the U. S. Engineer corps, the necessary platforms to enable me to place them in battery.

After the steamer left on Friday, with the reinforcements called out by Gen. Nichols, 68 men arrived from Jefferson county in compliance with that call and reported themselves to me. Not feeling authorized in sending them forward, I requested the committee of Safety of this city to act in the case, at the same time, I recommended their being received into service, on condition they would enlist for six months, if not sooner discharged ; this was agreed to by the men, and the course adopted by the committee, consequently, I enrolled them for six months. I deemed this advisable, even should all the posts west, be given up ; in fact, in that case, I considered the greater necessity for these men, inasmuch as most of the troops gone to the Rio Grande, were planters, merchants and clerks, who would not be willing to do garrison duty, but on the contrary, would be anxious to return. I explained the matter to Gen. Rogers, on his return from New Orleans, and he approved of the course I pursued.

Should Mr. Lincoln's policy be such, as to require the use of

guns here at all, it is all important we should have them of much larger size, say 68 pounders.

I requested Capt. Todd on leaving for Austin, to suggest to you, the propriety of ordering a quantity of small arms and ammunition from San Antonio, in fact, we have not a pound of powder here.

The five hundred stand brought from New Orleans by Gen. Rogers, will not be sufficient to supply the companies now organized in this city and Houston, and furthermore, I would remark, that no accoutrements came with the guns, neither are there any side arms here. I presume there are a large amount of all these articles at San Antonio. Gen. Twiggs tells me there are upwards of ten thousand stand of arms at that post.

Another subject permit me to call to your attention. Capt. Rogers, who was reinstated in command of the revenue cutter, by your authority, found himself without the necessary supply for his vessel. Mr. Stewart, the Collector, whose duty it has been, by virtue of his office, to sign the commander's requisition for such supply as well as the pay roll of the men, refused to do so for the supplies and pay for the month of March.

Capt. Rogers called on me in regard to the matter, I told him I would see that he was supplied. A merchant, however, on his own requisition, supplied him for this month.

I would further state that Mr. A. M. Gentry, called on me yesterday, and stated, he had been here some days with vessels, for the purpose of receiving the cargo of railroad iron from the brig "Sangeen;" that the Inspector refused to give it up on the order of your committee, which Mr. Gentry told me he held. He refused on the ground that it was subject to duties for the benefit of the Federal government.

I told Mr. Gentry to produce the order of your committee, and I would endeavor to procure the release of the iron, which I did, and trust it will meet your approbation.

Permit me also to say a word in regard to Lieut. Stevens. His position, however, is fully understood by one of your committee, Gen. Rogers. I would remark, however, that the Lieut. stands high in his profession as an engineer—has served in the U. S. Army for upwards of ten years, in that capacity, and according to the rule of the army, would be entitled to the rank of Captain, in 1862. He resigned his commission on the 2nd day of March, and now offers his services to the State of Texas. He would prefer a situation in the Engineer or Artillery corps. I would most respectfully recommend him to the Convention, for the post of Captain of Engineers.

This morning I received information of the arrival in this port of a schooner of 300 tons, belonging to the Federal government, having on board a small quantity of oil, intended for the light-houses on this coast. With the advice of the committee of Safety of this city, I took charge of her, and placed her under the eye of Capt. Rogers of the revenue cutter, until instructions from the Convention could be had. She is a very fine vessel of her class, about five years old.

Most respectfully,

Your obd't servant,

S. SHERMAN.

Report }
No. 8. }

ADDITIONAL REPORT

OF THE

SAN ANTONIO MISSION.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
March 11th, 1861. }

TO HON. O. M. ROBERTS,

President of the Convention :

The committee on Public Safety beg leave to submit herewith, vouchers handed them by the Commissioners heretofore appointed to San Antonio. By them it will be seen, that they have received the sum of \$32,943, and have paid out of the same, the sum of \$1,174 92. The committee have examined the vouchers of said Commissioners, and find them correct ; that said expenditures have been made with prudence and economy. It is but due to say, that of the sum so expended by them, only the sum of three hundred dollars were expended in securing and getting possession of the property at San Antonio ; the balance was paid to the officers and agents who were employed by the United States to bring the money aforesaid from New Orleans, and they thought, very properly, it was a just charge upon the fund itself, and the committee fully approve of the action of the Commissioners on this subject.

They further report, that against this fund, there are debts outstanding and yet to be paid out, the amount they have not yet ascertained, but they believe after all has been paid there will be left, belonging to the State, about the sum of twenty-three thousand dollars. With the view to place this money and the public property at San Antonio and other military posts, now in the hands of the Commissioners, into the hands of proper officers, and to organize departments for the temporary management of the same, and to prevent the same from being wasted. the committee submit an ordinance for the adoption of the

Convention. The committee state as a reason for nominating persons for that service, that said persons are now occupying those stations, by order of the Commissioners and have been found to be prudent, reliable and eminently qualified for the discharge of those duties.

Respectfully submitted,

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

JOHN C. ROBERTSON.

Chairman of Com. on Public Safety.

VOUCHERS.

"A."

THE STATE OF TEXAS in Account with Commissioners of Public Safety, at San Antonio, Texas, in the months of February and March, 1861.

DEBITS.

By Cash taken from safe of Capt. W. W. Reynolds, Assistant Quartermaster U. S. Army,	- \$ 2,943 00
By Cash belonging to the United States, seized upon, with money of the 3rd of March, 1861,	- 30,000 00
	\$32,943 00

CREDITS.

To amount of expenditures within the month,	- \$ 1,174 92
To balance due the State of Texas, carried to next statement,	- 31,748 08
	\$32,943 00

"B."

ABSTRACT of Expenditures in behalf of the State of Texas, by the Commissioners of Public Safety, on the 9th day of March, 1861.

TO WHOM PAID.	ON WHAT AC'T.	AMOUNT.
Lieut. S. M. Jones,	Expense acc't	\$ 700 00
S. B. Maclin,	"	135 00

Geo. E. Hinkly,	Expressman,	80 00
Wm. Burke,	"	14 00
Samuel Keer,	"	14 00
W. G. N. Samuel,	Clerk,	20 00
Messrs. Lockett & Maverick,	Expense acc't,	100 50
Jno. McBride,	Clerk,	60 42
Logan. Sweet & Palmer,	Printing,	20 00
J. C. French,	Rent,	15 00
Macleod & Dasheell,	Printing,	5 00
B. R. Sappington,	Ambulance hire,	11 00
		\$1,174 92

(Letter to Henry E. McCulloch.)

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS,
SAN ANTONIO, March 7th, 1861. }

COL. HENRY E. MCCULLOCH,

Fort Chadbourne and Camp Colorado :

DEAR SIR:—We just now received your favor of the 28th ult., and have to say, that the necessary transportation, viz : wagons to transdort U. S. troops from your upper posts, left here yesterday. Immediately on receipt of your letter, we made a contract with Mr. Hunter, for two hundred bushels of corn for your own use. This we do, from our anxiety to enable you to carry out your desires, and we do confidently hope the Convention will justify our action. Mr. Hunter leaves to-morrow morning and will overtake the wagons and put the corn on board at Fredericksburg. Please forgive us for cautioning you to use the corn with the greatest stinginess, as the price is \$2 25, at Fredicksburg, and if we had not there, wagons on the road, we fear that we could not now have sent it at all. The Convention has placed no funds yet in our hands.

The terms of the surrender, are just what you consider them to be. All necessary supplies will be furnished out of what we have taken, to enable the army to reach the coast, of which please give notice to Captain Smith and others.

Judge Devine went a week since to the Convention, we have no late news of much importance.

Very respectfully,

Your ob't servants,

P. N. LUCKETT,

S. A. MAVERICK,

Commissioners.

Report }
No. 9. }

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO WAIT UPON

GOV. HOUSTON.

COMMITTEE ROOM, }
March 21st, 1861. }

TO THE HON. O. M. ROBERTS,

President of the Convention:

The committee on Public Safety, beg leave to report to the Convention, that on the 4th day of February, 1861, having matured their plans for the seizure of the property in the hands of the Federal officers in the State, and selected the officers to perform that duty.

On motion, a sub-committee of three, to-wit: Gen. W. P. Rogers, Hon. W. S. Oldham and Hon. T. J. Devine, were appointed to confer with Gen. Sam Houston, the then Executive of the State.

The committee proceeded at once to perform that duty. On their return they were requested to make their report to the committee in writing, which was accordingly done. This report is herewith submitted to the Convention :

TO HON. JNO. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman Committee of Public Safety:

The undersigned, a committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency, Sam Houston, respectfully report, that on the day the Convention adjourned, Messrs. Rogers, Devine and Oldham, were appointed a sub-committee, by the committee on Public

Safety, to wait on and confer with Gov. Houston, in regard to the duties of the committee, and to assure him, that the committee would exercise no powers that would conflict with his, as the Executive of the State.

The sub-committee visited the Governor in the Executive office. They advised him of the objects of their mission, and to prevent misunderstanding between him and the committee of Public Safety, and that the latter would not attempt the execution of any power that properly belonged to him, as the Executive of the State. He expressed his gratification at our visit, and the assurance which we gave him. We then expressed to him the certainty, in our opinion, of the ordinance of secession being ratified by the people. We then suggested to him the propriety of securing the Federal property and arms in the State, in anticipation of that event. He said it should be done by all means ; that it should be done with promptness, and prudently ; that he had understood that unauthorized men had contemplated taking the property, and had therefore advised Gen. Twiggs, and had asked of the General, the conditions upon which the arms, &c., would be surrendered to the State; that he had received an answer from the General, which he would furnish as soon as his private Secretary should come in, which he subsequently did. He said that the property should be taken in the name of the State, inventory be made, and everything be faithfully preserved, and suggested the propriety of removing the artillery and property pertaining thereto, higher up the river ; that prudent men should have charge of the expedition ; that the disbursing officers should be responsible men, and should give bond, &c. Upon a question by Gen. Rogers, he stated that Cortinas might make another raid, and that the force sent to the Rio Grande, should be sufficient to repel him. It was agreed between the Governor and the committee, that he could not perform those duties, while Texas remained in the Union, and his oath to support the constitution of the United States, remained binding on him.

The Governor further stated, that secrecy was of the first importance in our contemplated movements on the Rio Grande. In conversation, he said, he had heard that it had been charged upon him, that he had sent a special messenger to Gen. Twiggs, in order to get arms to turn against the State Convention ; that it was untrue, and he never would be instrumental in the shedding of fraternal blood.

W. P. ROGERS,
W. S. OLDHAM.
THOS. J. DEVINE.

On the reception of this report, the committee were very much relieved, from the apprehension which existed, that the State authorities might be induced to throw obstacles in the way of the plans they had adopted to obtain the Federal property. The committee are gratified that the late Executive, in a patriotic moment, coincided with the committee in their views, about the propriety of obtaining possession of the Federal property. The committee fully sympathised with the Governor, on account of his conscientious scruples, growing out of his official oath, in regard to securing the property of the State. They, however, do not reproach themselves with having proposed to him to violate his conscience. It is true that the Governors of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas, had established precedents which might have authorized the committee in concluding it was not sacriligious, but they did not see proper to ask him to obtain the arms.

Having fully matured their plans, selected their officers and agents, and having settled down in a fixed determination to carry out their views, from a conviction of their propriety and imperative necessity.

The committee have not thought it necessary or conducive to the public safety, to confer with the late Governor, since the re-assembling of the Convention, on these subjects, believing as they do, that his endorsement, could not make their success more perfect than it has been.

I have the honor to be,

Yours respectfully,

JNO. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman Com. Public Safety.

APPENDIX.

AUSTIN, March 29th, 1861.

The following communication was received from Col. John S. Ford, after the Convention adjourned. It being, however, an official document, I have had it printed herewith.

JOHN C. ROBERTSON.

HEADQUARTERS, RIO GRANDE MIL. DIS. }
BROWNSVILLE, March 20th, 1861. }

SIR :—I have the honor to report operations, since the 13th, instant.

The command at Brazos Satiago was re-organized, and those desiring to do so, were allowed to return home. Six companies were mustered into the service for six months, unless sooner discharged. They are commanded by Capt. Edwards, Redwood, Waller, Powers, Donnelly and Tomlinson. When the rolls shall have been completed and returned to me, they will be forwarded to Austin. These companies are now on the march to this place, and will reach this vicinity to-night. The U. S. troops, will, it is understood, leave here to-morrow morning and the Texas forces will then take possession of Fort Brown. bags

Capt. Powers is stationed at Brazos Santiago, in command of 60 men. A company of infantry will be required to garrison Fort Brown, half a company will be posted at Edinburg, one company at Ringgold barracks, half a company at Redmond's Ranch, opposite Guerrero, Mexico, one company will garrison McIntosh, and it will be necessary to station detachments at points I am not now able to indicate. If Mexico remains pacific

in her policy towards us, and Indian forays cease, the number of men may, perhaps, be reduced ; but, whenever this line is weakened, it simply invites attack. I am thoroughly convinced the Mexicans will not let slip no chance to annoy us, and retrieve their many defeats. Raids would be frequent, should the means of chastisement be not near at hand. For the present, a demonstration of some strength is indispensibly necessary. Gen. Zaragosa is *en route* for Monteray at the head of 8,000 men. His reputed object is to put down Gen. Vidaurri. When he shall have arrived the tone of the Mexicans will no longer be conciliatory. I know them, and can safely say, there is not a more overbearing people on earth when they have the ascendancy, or full backed up by universal superiority. These are not all the reasons for the policy I advocate. From various points on the Rio Grande, the Nueces and the Frio, authenticated accounts of Indian depredations have reached me. Twenty-seven persons are reported to have been killed, many ranches plundered, and hundreds of head of stock driven off. Companies of citizens have been in pursuit, and two skirmishes have ensued, resulting in the loss of one Mexican, the killing of one Indian, the wounding of two, and the recapture of some horses. The depredators are reported to consist of Indians, Mexicans and a few white men. Immediately upon receiving reliable information of a descent of the Indians I directed Capt. Littleton, with his mounted company, to move across the country in the direction of the Salt Lake, and to make suitable dispositions for pursuing and chastising the mauraunders. Capt. Nolan, had previously left Ringgold barracks, with a large detachment with a like object. They have been absent near a week without having reported. I hope they will be successful.

The mounted men will be kept in the field constantly. Depots for supplies will be necessary, and these should be guarded by infantry.

It is probable a company of mounted men will have headquarters at, or near, old Fort Ewell, on the Nueces ; another near Larado, and another at a point to be determined by circumstances.

Should the Captains not be able to fill up their companies to the full number, they can get recruits from the mounted men which should be on the march for this place. If necessary, one or more infantry companies may be mounted.

The ordnance, ordnance stores, and other public property now on this line, should, by all means, remain. They were placed here by military men, who conceived them necessary. If they

were so when Texas was in the Union, how much more are they so now? The Mexicans have never abandoned the idea of reconquering Texas; they think it is "manifest destiny," that their flag shall again wave in triumph from the Sabine to the Rio Grande. Strip this line of artillery, of supplies, of all proper material to render a command efficient, and you place the whole frontier of the lower Rio Grande at the mercy of any marauding chief, who may choose to invade it—you show yourselves wanting in military foresight—you destroy confidence, and, in short, you depopulate. The base of operations for the line I command is Brazos Santiago. Through that port millions of dollars in merchandize pass annually. It has water communication with Roma—a distance of one hundred and sixty-three miles by land—and the same could be extended to, or near Laredo. Depots should, of course, be established in this line. The idea of establishing a depot nearly four hundred miles from important points on a frontier is a absurdity. No military man would think of it. These suggestions are made on account of an order from Gen. E. B. Nichols, to send a battery to Galveston for the use of the Galveston artillery. In my judgment, the battery is needed here more than any other part of the State. What is the use of going to the cost of transporting public property from this point to San Antonio, when in all probability it will have to be sent back in a short while? It would be unprofitable expenditure of money—destructive to the articles transported, and, what would be worse than all, extremely dangerous to the peace and safety of this frontier. In my opinion, if you adopt the policy suggested by the Commissioner, you may prepare to meet the receding population on the banks of the Nueces, in a few months, and to reconquer or abandon this military district. It is not in keeping with our true interests to make war upon Mexico now, and it may not be hereafter, yet that is no proof of the Mexican idea of the proper line of conduct for that nation to pursue. She may make the war, and I have no doubt she will if she deems success at all probable. They cling to the illusive notion that, they would have gained all the battles during the war with the United States, had not American gold bribed their officers. A people who can thus believe, with all the facts to the contrary, can be brought to stickle at nothing presented for the exercise of their credulity. For these, and many other reasons, obvious to any one versed in military matters, I deem it imprudent and unsafe to adopt the plan suggested by Gen. Nichols.

In order to give efficiency to the mounted men, I found it

necessary to purchase a number of Sharpe's rifles. The fact is, quite a number of the men had no guns of any sort, and their services were required. There was no alternative but to arm them myself.

Up to this time, I have received no communication from the committee of Public Safety. I addressed you communications dated February 22nd, 25th, March 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th and at other times. I am at a loss to know whether they are received. If not you will please notify me, and I will forward copies.

Since writing the above, the command arrived and the Texas troops are now in possession of Fort Brown. The "Lone Star" flag now floats from the staff from which the "Stars and Stripes" were lowered this morning. There is another corps of U. S. troops to arrive yet, and then no more will remain in my military district. Secession is now almost complete.

Companies are soon to be on the march for the upper posts. They are already occupied by detachments of Capt. Nolan's command. I have ordered the quartermaster to send 20,000 rations of subsistence to this point, and when it arrives the companies will march.

I have the honor to be,

Your obd't serv't,

JOHN. S. FORD.

Col. Com. Rio Grande Mil. Dis.

HON. J. C. ROBERTSON,

Chairman Committee Public Safety.

MEMBERS

OF THE

Committee on Public Safety.

Members of the Committee who remained in session during the recess of the Convention.

*JOHN C. ROBERTSON	of	Smith county, Chairman.
*JAMES H. ROGERS,	"	Marion "
*A. T. RAINY,	"	Anderson "
*J. R. ARMSTRONG,	"	Rusk "
*W. P. ROGERS,	"	Harris "
*J. M. NORRIS,	"	Coryelle "
T. J. DEVINE,	"	Bexar "
W. MILLER,	"	Bastrop "
*J. J. DIAMOND,	"	Cooke "
*C. L. CLEVELAND,	"	Liberty "
P. N. LUCKETT,	"	Nueces "
*T. S. LUBBOCK,	"	Harris "
JNO. A. GREEN,	"	Travis "

T. J. Rogers, was sent Commissioner to Louisiana.

T. J. Devine and P. N. Lockett, Commissioners to San Antonio.

J. M. Norris, bearer of dispatches and money to Col. H. E. McCulloch.

*Members who were in session at Galveston.

JOHN HENRY BROWN,	"	Bell county,
J. G. THOMPSON,	"	Fannin "

JAMES HOOKER,	of Hunt county
F. W. LATHAM,	" Cameron "
CHARLES GANAHL,	" Kerr "
JOHN S. FORD,	" Cameron "
W. S. OLDHAM,	" Washington county,
JEROME B. ROBERTSON,	"

John S. Ford, elected to command the Rio Grande expedition.

W. S. Oldham, resigned, and Jerome B. Robertson substituted for him.

The remainder of these were granted leave of absence from the Committee.

R. T. BROWNRIGG of Travis county, *Secretary of the Com.*

B. F. DURHAM, of Rusk co., *Sergeant-at-arms* "